

Minutes

**of the extraordinary membership meeting of Pyramid Society Europe (PSE) held on
5 May 2007
at Hotel Alpenhof in Augsburg**

The meeting was convened at 2:15 p.m.

The following voting members were present at the meeting:

M. Greineder, P. Gross, D. Gross, M. Amin, E. Lehmann, E. Escher, A. Escher, R. Kern, M. Malorny, Gerard Oben, J. Schwestermann, C. Kesseböhmer, W. Bindl, I. Heggli, A. Heggli, I. Friedmann, HJ Friedmann, M. Schäfer, O. Heggli, Geert Oben, M. Paufler, G. Preuss, M. Redmann, J. Preuss, H. Preuss, Dr. H. Freimüller, D. Melzer, B. TerLaan, E. Friedmann, V. Zeitler, S. Daubenschmid, R. Versteegen, W. Poth, S. Galber, M. Khamis, A. Dirnhofer, A. Weishaupt, T. Lutz, E. Fazekas, H. Hain, M. Hain, T. Bobrzyk, R. Schlereth, B. v. Kameke, S. Manz, M. Metzler, L. Vetter, R. Kolster, J. Schäfer, S. Poth, B. Wouda, F. Schwestermann, Dr. T. Haan, G. Weixelbaum, R. Kaufmann, C. Moritz, C. Krumm, S. Bösche, P. Krumm, Dr. P. Selva, A. Selva, S. Holmudden, M. Ponnath, O. Berg, G. Schuster, P. Schuster, Dr. M. Oster, Dr. F. Denzinger, B. Krall, UJ Wagner, M. Lucini, P. Niebauer, K. Maler, S. Scherling, U. Poth

1. Introductory remarks

The chairman of the board Ferdinand Schwestermann (hereafter referred to as “Mr. Schwestermann”) welcomed the members of PSE to the meeting and confirmed the presence of a quorum. The invitations for the meeting were duly sent out on 26 March 2007, and thus complied with the advance notice and the formal requirements.

2. Minutes of the ordinary annual membership meeting

The minutes of the ordinary membership meeting of 3 March 2007 were sent to the members along with the announcement of the extraordinary membership meeting.

Two corrections were made in item 6 of the minutes. The corrected item should read as follows (the corrections are in **bold type**):

6. Treasurer’s annual report

Cash on hand as at 1 January 2006	EUR 9,200.--
As of today	EUR 15,547.79

2006 expenditures

EUR 2,600.--	130 Pyramid Insight
EUR 2,307.--	40 the Pyramid Society Handbooks
EUR 5,000.--	Egyptian Event Europe (EEE)
EUR 606.80	Website
EUR 312.70	AGM Marbach
EUR 46.70	Bank account charges
EUR 30.--	Foreign checks
EUR 400.--	Travel expenses
EUR 221.73	Sponsoring for the Pyramid Society Cup

2006 income

EUR 13,441.50	Membership fees
EUR 2,500.--	Lifetime membership fee
EUR 890.--	Book sales
EUR 450.--	Ads in the members’ directory

Extraordinary membership meeting of Pyramid Society Europe (PSE) held on 5 May 2007

The aforementioned corrections do not change the organisation's 2006 financial results. PSE's accounts were audited by V. Zeitler and M. Greineder.

At the behest of the auditors, the treasurer's actions over the past year were approved at the membership meeting of 3 March 2007 by a vote of 23 in favour and 1 abstention. The executive board's actions over the past year were approved by unanimous vote.

At the request of O. Berg, an English translation of the minutes of membership meetings will be published henceforth.

Mr. Schwestermann then moved to have the members approve the corrected minutes and to clear the chief of minutes actions. The meeting approved the corrected minutes and the members cleared the chief of minutes actions by a vote of 68 in favour, 0 opposed, and 7 abstentions.

3. Election of board members

Mr. Schwestermann proposed that B. v. Kameke and P. Selva act as vote counters and asked the meeting for any contrary proposals. As none were made, Mr. Schwestermann then moved to have the meeting approve the appointment of the proposed vote counters. This motion was passed by a vote of 71 in favour, 0 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

M. Greineder proposed a change in the meeting agenda such that the vote would be moved to the end of the meeting. Mr. Schwestermann pointed out that some members cannot stay for the whole meeting owing to the fact that their mares are due to foal. B. v. Kameke commented that the request to move the vote to the end of the meeting should have been submitted prior to the meeting. This concluded the discussion of changes in the meeting agenda.

Mr. Schwestermann then suggested that F. Denzinger should serve as election manager and asked the meeting to approve the motion, which was approved by a unanimous vote.

Election of the chairman

Mr. Schwestermann indicated that he stands for reelection. Willi Poth (hereafter "Mr. Poth") was nominated from the ranks of the members. Dr. Denzinger asked Mr. Poth if he accepted the nomination, and Mr. Poth answered in the affirmative. M. Greineder nominated Markus Metzler (hereafter "Mr. Metzler"), who declined the nomination in response to the question from the election manager.

M. Oster asked the candidates to introduce themselves

Mr. Poth addressed the meeting (in German). Following is a summary of his remarks:

Mr. Poth talked about the outcome of the last election at the ordinary membership meeting on 3 March 2007, and of the negative atmosphere that prevails within PSE at the time. A number of PSE members had asked Mr. Poth to run for president owing to the fact that the board election process was cut short at the 3 March meeting. Mr. Poth promised to hold the Egyptian Event Europe (EEE) annually, using a sponsor's support that he has already obtained. Mr. Poth expressed the view that a substantial number of the members present at today's meeting had only come as a result of his efforts. Mr. Poth pointed out that he has been a breeder of Arabian horses for 35 years and of straight Egyptian Arabians for 30 years, and that he is an international ECAHO A-judge and a speaker at shows. Mr. Poth stated that he would like to realise the goals that were originally envisaged for PSE upon its founding twenty years ago.

M. Oster asked Mr. Poth whether in future the EEE will remain a professionals-only event where amateurs have virtually no chance. He asked which activities are in the pipeline, above and beyond the EEE, that would enable members to get together and swap ideas. He said that, for example, the event at the Ponnaths' stud farm in October 2006 was a good step in that direction.

Extraordinary membership meeting of Pyramid Society Europe (PSE) held on 5 May 2007

Mr. Poth responded by saying that it is not within his power to make up for all the things that haven't been done in past years, and that he doesn't wish to make any promises. He said that the EEE is important to him and is his main priority.

B. v. Kameke wants to know the exact status of his ideas concerning the EEE. After all the PSE is not in such bad shape and does not need to be rebuilt as Mr. Poth seems to suggest in his remarks. Of course there are always possibilities for improvement. B. v. Kameke then asked Mr. Poth's how he sees the future of PSE.

Mr. Poth answered by saying that he has a sponsor and plans, which he intends to announce in the weeks immediately following the election. Mr. Poth denied having asserted that PSE is in bad shape, stating that he feels the organisation is divided. He said that PSE should once again turn its attention to matters relating to straight Egyptian Arabian horses, rather than focusing on personal issues. To promote the goals of PSE it is necessary to work together. Mr. Poth urged members to participate in this year's upcoming EEE in Lanaken, Belgium.

Peter Gross pointed out that Mr. Poth has been a member of PSE since its inception and asked why Mr. Poth has not been more involved in the organisation in the past – for example following the death of the organisation's president G. W. Seidlitz in 1995. M. Gross said that PSE was dormant for years following Mr. Seidlitz's death, and was only reactivated thanks to the efforts of Prof. S. Paufler.

The ensuing discussion was insubstantial and was terminated by Dr. Denzinger.

Mr. Schwestermann then spoke to the meeting (in German and English)

Mr. Schwestermann thanked the board for its excellent work over the past four years. He looked back over the activities of recent years, including the EEE in 2003, 2004 and 2005, which the Friedmanns, Preusses and Schwestermanns organised in Baden-Baden at their own financial risk. The 2006 edition of EEE was organised by the Metzlers in Dillenburg, and this year the event will be held at Slot Pietersheim in Lanaken, Belgium. Mr. Schwestermann also mentioned in this regard the inaugural Egyptian Event Nordic Countries 2005.

There were four stud farm presentations namely the H. Preuss family's Madheen Arabians, at the B. v. Kameke family's Gut Grabau, at Weil-Marbach and at the Ponnath stud farm.

Susanne Bösche gave a talk on mare lines at the Gut Grabau stud farm, and veterinarian Dr. R. Heuschmann held a workshop on artificial insemination practices at the M. Ponnath stud farm.

PSE's media presence is good and the Web site is in the process of being upgraded and expanded. In the interest of achieving a unified image for PSE, all members were given PSE pins and stickers. The member's directory was issued for the second time in 2007. A pamphlet on PSE is in preparation and members can distribute it to customers and other interested parties.

The board is focusing not only on shows, but also on promoting the Sport itself, via a Pyramid Society Cup endurance event, and through prizes for successful mare and stallion performance tests.

Membership has increased from 80 to 149, and PSE has gained its first lifetime member, Mohammed Amin, from Egypt.

Thanks to the board's outstanding management skills, PSE has now a solid financial base.

The demand for straight Egyptian Arabians is growing, and the outlook is excellent. This is also a sign that PSE's work is bearing fruit.

Extraordinary membership meeting of Pyramid Society Europe (PSE) held on 5 May 2007

The Pyramid Foundation Europe protected PSE members against the financial risk entailed by the 2003, 2004 and 2005 EEE's. This foundation was established for the purpose of preventing PSE from incurring financial risk. In 2006 this risk was assumed by the Metzlers, and is being assumed in 2007 by the Bielen and Oben families. Mr. Schwestermann urged PSE members to register their horses for this year's EEE in Lanaken.

M. Oster asked Mr. Schwestermann the same question that he had asked Mr. Poth.

J. Schäfer pointed out that although the EEE is supposed to be the main job of PSE, there is as yet no information concerning the 2006 EEE on the PSE Web site. Mr. Schäfer pointed out with regard to the Pyramid Foundation Europe that the EEE has been marked by a conflict of interests on the part of the organisers, and future EEE's should be organised by individuals with no personal interest.

Mr. Schwestermann is of the opinion, that the various interests of the members should be recognized, one of which is the EEE – which is also a key showcase for straight Egyptian Arabians. Nevertheless, only 21 percent of PSE members have supported the EEE by registering horses for the event, sponsoring or taking out an ad in the show catalogue. This is a sign that PSE members are interested in more than just shows. Mr. Schwestermann vehemently contested the allegation concerning a conflict of interest on the part of 2003-05 EEE organisers and unequivocally stated that there has never been any conflict of interest at any time.

Mr. Schwestermann went on to say that every year the board has urged the EEE organisers to take into account the interests of all members, insofar as possible. For example, this year the board held extensive EEE 2007 related meetings at the EEE site with the Obens and Bielens, who are the organisers of this year's event. However, the board has relatively little influence over the organisers, who, after all, are the parties that assume the financial risk for the EEE. And this is a factor that the PSE board simply has to take into consideration.

S. Manz emphasized, that the 2003-2005 EEE's would not have been possible if it weren't for all the time, work and money invested in the events by the organisers. He also said that Pyramid Foundation Europe financed these EEE's and assumed the financial risk.

B. Wouda noted that Mr. Schwestermann was speaking in German and English, and asked Mr. Poth if he speaks English. Mr. Poth answered in the affirmative.

R. Schlereth commented that this doesn't really matter, since Prof. Paufler doesn't speak English at all. A brief discussion of this issue ensued.

HJ Friedmann urged everyone to be polite, saying that everyone should be happy that people are offering their time for the good of the cause. Envy is a bad element and that personal differences should be set aside during such discussions.

Dr. Denzinger thanked HJ Friedmann for his remarks and terminated the discussion.

Mr. Poth explains, this time in English that he has also been a moderator at international shows for many years.

M. Oster pointed out that his late father-in-law G.W. Seidlitz was a founding member of PSE and that he is now speaking in memory of him. Mr. Oster further stated that although debate is important, PSE members should lend the board their support by expressing their desires and complaints, and that the members should work together to further the cause of the straight Egyptian Arabians.

Dr. Denzinger thanked the members for their comments, terminated the discussion and began the process of electing the president of PSE. He and the vote counters distributed the ballots.

Extraordinary membership meeting of Pyramid Society Europe (PSE) held on 5 May 2007

75 duly registered members with voting rights were present.

75 valid ballots were returned, checked and counted.

The results of the election were as follows: Mr. Schwestermann received 39 votes and Mr. Poth received 36.

On inquiry by voting manager Dr. Denzinger, Mr. Schwestermann accepted the election as president, thanked the members for their confidence in him, and encouraged all members to work together in achieving the aims of PSE. He also remarked that members should feel free to communicate their constructive criticisms and/or suggestions directly to him.

Election of the vice president

Mr. Schwestermann nominated Ms. Bösche. After voting managers inquiry, she stands for election.

M. Greineder nominated Mr. Poth, who declined the nomination.

M. Greineder nominated Mr. Metzler, who accepted the nomination.

Mr. Schwestermann suggested that the vote be taken by a show of hands. E. Fazekas raises an objection that it should be a written vote. Thereafter the voting is conducted in a written manner.

The vote counters and voting manager distributed the ballots to all voting members present.

72 valid votes were returned, checked and counted.

Results: Ms. Bösche received 51 votes and Mr. Metzler received 13. There were 8 abstentions.

Ms. Bösche accepted the election as vice president in response to an inquiry from Dr. Denzinger.

Election of the deputy vice president

Mr. Schwestermann nominated O. Heggli, who accepted the nomination in response to an inquiry from Dr. Denzinger.

W. Bindl nominated Dr. P. Selva, who declined the nomination.

The voting members present decided to conduct the vote by a show of hands.

Results: 66 in favour, 1 opposed, 7 abstentions.

O. Heggli accepted the election as deputy vice president in response to an inquiry from Dr. Denzinger.

Election of the chief of the minutes

Mr. Schwestermann nominated C. Krumm, who on inquiry by the voting manager accepted the nomination.

The voting members present decided to conduct the vote by a show of hands.

Results: 66 in favour, 2 opposed, 7 abstentions.

C. Krumm accepted the election as chief of the minutes in response to an inquiry from Dr. Denzinger.

Extraordinary membership meeting of Pyramid Society Europe (PSE) held on 5 May 2007

Election of the treasurer

Dr. Oster nominated Dr. Denzinger, who declined the nomination.

S. Manz nominated UJ Wagner, who accepted the nomination in response to an inquiry from Dr. Denzinger.

The voting members present decided to conduct the vote by a show of hands.

Results: 73 in favour, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions.

UJ Wagner accepted the election as treasurer in response to an inquiry from Dr. Denzinger.

Approximately 20 minutes break

4. Egyptian Event Europe 2007

Mr. Schwestermann explains that the members of the board inspected the showgrounds in November 2006 and held extensive discussions with the Oben and Bielen families. The members of the board are confident that this will be a very successful EEE, providing all members lend their support to the event. The organisers have PSE member Sheikha Lulua Al Sabah as their main sponsor. The third Vernet bronze by famous artist Karen Kasper will be unveiled during the gala evening at the event. The first of the sculptures was unveiled at the stud farm of Sheikh Khaled A. Bagedo in Egypt, and the second at the Egyptian Event in the U.S.

Geert Oben has compiled a DVD containing photos and information concerning EEE 2007, and indicated that further information in this regard is available online at www.egyptian-event-europe.com. Registration information in German will be mailed out soon. Mr. Oben emphasised that the get of dam and get of sire classes will be conducted as a presentation without any rankings.

Dr. Oster asked about opportunities for non-professionals at the event. Mr. Oben indicated that the organisers have discussed this matter with all of the professional trainers, who have promised that they will provide amateurs with support. If an amateur needs help or has questions, the professional trainers will be more than happy to assist in any way that they can.

Mr. Schwestermann noted that the showgrounds and hotels are well suited for the EEE. PSE will hold a cocktail reception at La Butte Aux Bois hotel prior to the gala dinner. Mr. Schwestermann again urged PSE members to support this very enthusiastic and committed team of organisers.

Prof. Paufler mentioned that the Metzlers' "Arabica" show will be held in Frankfurt a.M. on Whitsun weekend this year. Mr. Schwestermann thanked Prof. Paufler for pointing this out and wished the Metzlers good luck. Mr. Schwestermann also announced the upcoming Italian event "Oriental Image", which is being organised by PSE members Dr. P. Selva, A. Selva and S. Galber. Mr. Schwestermann wished them the best of luck with their event as well.

5. Report from the representative of the Nordic countries

O. Heggli expressed his pleasure at the active participation in the meeting on the part of PSE members from Nordic countries, some of whom travelled from Scandinavia to attend the meeting. The interest in straight Egyptian Arabians in Scandinavia is still in an upward trend although the number of Polishbred Arabian horses is higher. The demand for good straight Egyptian Arabian horses is outpacing the supply which has an effect on the prices.

The Egyptian Arabians show in Denmark which originally had been planned for 2007 has been postponed to 2008.

6. Proposal by Prof. Paufler to amend § 4.3 and § 9.4 of the PSE bylaws

Ms. Bösche explained the motion as follows: § 4.3 stipulates that motions to the attention of the membership meeting must be submitted four weeks ahead of time and § 9.4 requires only a 20 day period. The purpose of the motion is to eliminate this discrepancy.

B. Wouda proposed that a 20 calendar day period be adopted.

The meeting adopted this motion. Of the 51 voting members present, 50 voted in favour, 1 abstained, and 0 were opposed. The PSE bylaws can now be amended accordingly.

O. Berg said that he would like to have an English translation of the PSE bylaws.

Dr. Denzinger would like to know why PSE needs a deadline for the submission of motions to the attention of the membership meeting. A discussion ensued concerning the need for such a deadline.

Prof. Paufler stated that members are permitted to make motions during the meeting, subject to the members approval.

Mr. Schwestermann explained that sometimes an attorney has to be consulted in advance if motions concerning matters such as amending the bylaws are submitted. Mr. Schwestermann proposed that the board be instructed to look into this matter, that they review the bylaws, and that they put any unresolved issues on the agenda for the next membership meeting.

A vote was then taken on a motion to table this issue at the present meeting and take it up again at the 2008 meeting.

This motion was passed by a vote of 47 in favour, 0 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

7. Motion by Prof. Paufler to establish a Foundation to fund PSE's activities

Prof. Paufler pointed out that there are often no funds available for PSE events, and that a non-profit Foundation could help to remedy this problem. The Foundation would fund all aspects of breeding, Sport, scientific research concerning equine health and breeding suitability, as well as the EEE. The funds dispersed for these purposes would come from the interest earned on the Foundation's assets. An initial capital of Euro 20'000.—is necessary to form such a Foundation. Each member could make a EUR 100 contribution to the foundation, in addition to any other donations.

Prof. Paufler proposed to collect EUR 100 from each member of PSE for the establishment of a foundation to promote PSE's activities.

S. Manz stated that he likes the idea of establishing a Foundation, but is concerned about the fact that EUR 20,000 in assets at a presumed annual interest rate of 4 percent would yield only EUR 800 per annum, which would not be sufficient to fund PSE's defined goals over the long term.

I. Friedmann asked what was the point of establishing a foundation, since PSE is a nonprofit organisation and the money could simply be donated directly to PSE.

M. Greineder explained that PSE could lose its nonprofit status if its income and thus its assets exceed a certain amount, but that this would not apply to the Foundation. Another difference would be that the PSE board would not have free access to the Foundation's assets.

B. Wouda asked whether the Foundation would be required to have its own board of directors.

Extraordinary membership meeting of Pyramid Society Europe (PSE) held on 5 May 2007

Mr. Schwestermann answered this question in the affirmative, since the board of PSE is not necessarily the same as the board of the Foundation. Mr. Schwestermann added that it would be advisable for a representative of the PSE board to be represented on the Foundation board.

At the conclusion of this lively discussion, Mr. Schwestermann suggested to Prof. Paufler that the board investigates this matter further, that the formation of a Foundation would provide long-term funding for the promotion of the goals of PSE. At the 2008 membership meeting the board should present the conclusions it reaches in collaboration with Prof. Paufler.

Prof. Paufler agreed to this course of action.

8. Miscellaneous

B. Wouda asked if he can use the PSE logo on numnahs.

Mr. Schwestermann answered in the affirmative, urging the members to use the PSE logo wherever possible – for example in ads or on their Web sites. A print file for the logo can be obtained by sending an email request to Ms. Bösche.

Dr. Oster said he wished that amateurs had the same chances as professionals at shows. He proposed that a team be formed from the members to devise a strategy and concept aimed at achieving this goal. T. Lutz expressed his willingness to work on such project.

Dr. Oster also suggested that in the interest of increasing the level of attendance at the annual membership meetings, future meetings should be held in conjunction with a stud farm presentation.

Ms. Bösche noted that it would be more beneficial and appealing to hold the membership meeting at a later time than during the first three months of the year.

Mr. Schwestermann proposed that the annual membership meeting be held by 30 September of each year at the latest. He asked the members to vote on this proposal, which was passed by a unanimous vote of all present.

An extremely lively discussion on the amateurs versus professionals issue ensued. PSE plans to hold a members' workshop "Presenting my horse / How to prepare my horse optimally for showing" with a professional trainer.

Mr. Schwestermann adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m., and in so doing thanked the members for their active participation, their constructive and engaging discussions, the ideas and suggestions and wished everybody a safe journey home.

Christina Krumm
Chief of the minutes

Disclaimer

Please note that the German version of the minutes is binding and that the above English version is a translation of same.