

# **NEWS – APPEL – NEWS – APPEL – NEWS**

**March 2017**

## ***Philippe Karl: UNESCO and equitation in the French tradition***

In 2011, UNESCO inscribed the form of riding known as “equitation in the French tradition” on its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Philippe Karl now takes stock with an open letter to the architects of this proposal. He summarises the characteristic elements that distinguish authentic French equitation and compares them with the practices that are common today in France – as they are also found at the Cadre Noir in Saumur, officially the main representative of this riding style.

His conclusion: “It is unfortunately evident that the legacy of the greatest French masters is quite the opposite of the training currently practiced and taught in France, including at Saumur. The Cadre Noir of today is, therefore, less than ever representative of riding ‘in the French tradition’. This pretence was already misleading. Having now been formalised by UNESCO, it has become a cultural deception set in stone.”

Philippe Karl appeals to the decision makers in France “not simply to be satisfied by this proclamation, however marvellous it may sound, but to get to the bottom of things. [...] This UNESCO matter must be seen as an opportunity for a refounding of our teaching, at the same time as the last chance of giving the Cadre Noir a future worthy of the name... because *l'équitation à la Française oblige!*

You will find the complete letter at [www.philippe-karl.com/unesco-petition](http://www.philippe-karl.com/unesco-petition). If you wish, you can support Philippe Karl's initiative by signing the corresponding petition.

## ***APPEL has voted – thank you for you participation!***

The first board election of APPEL took place from the beginning of February to the end of March 2017. As part of the association's first extraordinary general meeting, all members of APPEL could participate in the election. The voting documents were sent out by e-mail in early February, the ballots could be returned to APPEL by e-mail, letter or fax.

Many thanks to all those who followed the invitation of Philippe Karl to actively shape the future of APPEL!

The results of the election will be announced at the next ordinary general meeting on 5 May 2017 (see below).

## ***Fourth general meeting of the association***

The fourth ordinary general meeting of APPEL will take place on Friday 5 May 2017 at 19:30, at the hotel Goldener Hirsch, Hernstr. 3, D-92348 Berg (near Nürnberg), in the south of Germany. You should have received the official invitation including the agenda by e-mail on 23 March. If not, please notify the APPEL team at [appel.edl@gmail.com](mailto:appel.edl@gmail.com), and we will send you the information again.

Please inform Katja Lauer by e-mail at [katja.lauer@sofienhof.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:katja.lauer@sofienhof.onmicrosoft.com) if you intend to attend the meeting.

## Members recruit members

APPEL launches the action “Members recruit members”. The association needs your help in recruiting new members – because more members ultimately means more financial support for more projects of the Ecole de Légèreté.

Go ahead and use your personal contacts. Talk to friends and acquaintances, riding students and horse enthusiasts, and bring APPEL to their attention. Contribute to strengthening the international community of the Ecole de Légèreté by promoting the association. To this end, you can order the print version of the APPEL flyer at [appel.edl@gmail.com](mailto:appel.edl@gmail.com) or download it at <http://www.philippe-karl.com/appe-association/about-appel>.

If you recruit a new member for APPEL, you will receive the APPEL organiser (for a regular membership) or a large APPEL patch (for a membership with reduced fee) as a thank-you gift. Just inform the APPEL team by e-mail to [appel.edl@gmail.com](mailto:appel.edl@gmail.com) about your recruit and give them your current address. After the new membership is activated, the APPEL organiser or patch will be sent directly to your home. (Offer not valid for the recruitment of trainee teachers and licenced teacher of the Ecole de Légèreté.)

Thank you for your commitment!



## Projects supported by APPEL – second half of 2016

### ARENA in Sparreholm (Sweden)

*A report by Lena Danius*

From 22 to 24 July 2016, the Swedish Ecole de Légèreté team participated in the classical dressage fair ARENA at Sparreholm Castle and Equestrian Centre, which attracted about 900 visitors. Five riding teachers of the Ecole de Légèreté – four from Sweden and one from Germany – presented the school and its riding philosophy to the public.



During the three days, the Swedish team was present with a booth and showed daily 30 min demonstrations in the big indoor arena. Anna Wallen with her Lusitano stallion Que Halo, a veteran of the HansePferd and Equitana horse fairs, and Tana Ericsson with her Lipizzaner crossbreed mare Alyxiz Aleara presented two different themes: how to school the horse in piaffe and in flying changes. The way to piaffe was shown on Friday and Sunday, with Anna riding and Tana working in hand. On Saturday, both riders on horseback demonstrated how to school the horse in flying changes.

As an introduction to the demonstrations, Lena Danius presented the school and its core principles. During the shows, Anna and Tana wore headsets and

explained to the audience what they did and why. The feedback from the audience was fully positive: the demonstrations were praised as inspiring, pedagogically sound and very professional.

Pernilla Deijfen and Lena Kjellström represented the school at the booth, answering numerous questions from the visitors.

The Swedish team would like to thank APPEL for the material for the booth and the financial support.

### Andalusian World Cup in Las Vegas (USA)

For the first time, APPEL funds have left the European continent to support a project in the USA. Thanks to Muriel Chestnut (Ontario, Canada), the Ecole de Légèreté was present with a booth at the Andalusian World Cup (AWC) in Las Vegas. This was the first time that the Ecole de Légèreté presented itself in public in the USA.



The AWC took place from 20 to 24 September 2016. Although the organisers' expectations for audience numbers were not fully met, this first project in the USA was a beginning for our international community and a clear sign of the global growth of the Ecole de Légèreté.

### Youth promotion in Beselich-Schubbach (Germany)

For years now, Gabriele Sobotta, an APPEL member and a dedicated supporter of the Ecole de Légèreté, has been training her school horses – Welsh ponies and cobs – according to the principles of the Ecole de Légèreté. As promoting young riders within the school is particularly important to her, she regularly organises courses for children and adolescents at her stable. Demand in this area is increasing. However, the parents' financial resources are often limited. Gabriele therefore provides her school horses mostly free of charge.

On 2 and 3 July 2016, Gabriele organised a seminar themed “Légèreté for pupils and students” at the Verein der Pony- und Pferdsportfreunde Weidenhof e.V. in Beselich-Schubbach, with around 20 mostly young participants.



In order to convey the theoretical principles to the young riders, but also to the spectators and parents, Gabriele set up creative workshops on the individual training phases of the Ecole de Légèreté. Over two days, collages on “Impulsion”, “Flexibility”, “Mobility” and “Collection” were worked out. Practical exercises without horse complemented the respective workshop. For example, the consequences of a backward-acting hand were illustrated with the help of a spoon as a bit, and shoulder-in imitated in a Greek dance. The youngsters developed an enthusiasm that also captivated the adults.

Andrea Walz, licenced teacher of the Ecole de Légèreté, took over the riding part. In trial lessons, she explained to the children and teenagers the correct use of the hands and the neck extension.



Everyone, including the board of APPEL, agreed that it was a very successful event. Special thanks go to the project manager Gabriele Sobotta.

### **Fieracavalli 2016 in Verona (Italy)**



In cooperation with APPEL, GIEL – Gruppo Italiano Ecole de Légèreté – presented the Ecole de Légèreté at the Fieracavalli horse fair in Verona again in 2016. A special highlight was the participation of Philippe Karl with his Hanoverian gelding High Noon. The “Fiera di Verona” is one of the most important horse shows in Europe. From 10 to 13 November, many fair visitors used the opportunity to inform themselves about the school by talking

to teachers and students of the Ecole de Légèreté at the booth of GIEL and APPEL, or to meet with Philippe Karl and Master Teacher Bertrand Ravoux in person.

The Ecole de Légèreté presented its practical work twice a day. The programme featured a demonstration of Antonella Boffa together with young riding students in the morning, and in the evening, as a highlight of Fieracavalli, a musical presentation of Philippe Karl with the teachers of the Ecole de Légèreté. Philippe Karl and High Noon, in particular, enthused the spectators and repeatedly earned spontaneous applause.



In the Rossini hall, which was fully packed with about 220 people, Philippe Karl spoke about the role of the forehand in the training of the horses. The listeners thanked Philippe Karl for his lecture with enthusiastic applause and standing ovations.

The “Fiera di Verona” was a great success again in 2016, as the positive feedback from the visitors confirmed. The presentation of the Ecole de Légèreté is becoming more and more professional. The team is already looking forward to participating in the 2017 fair.



**We thank all the participants in the various projects and the members of the association for their dedication and their active and financial support of the Ecole de Légèreté!**

**The Board**