

Minutes of APPEL annual general meeting, 6 May 2017

Last Board members present:

Philippe Karl (vice-president)
 Antje Matthes (treasurer)
 Stéphanie Durand (secretary)
 Sabine Mosen (PR officer)
 Bea Borelle (PR officer) via Skype

New Board members present:

Sylvia Stössel (president)
 Philippe Karl (vice-president)
 Antje Matthes (treasurer)
 Stéphanie Durand (secretary)

Auditor: Susanne Buck-Wegener

Members present: See attached attendance list

Minute takers: Antje Matthes / Sylvia Stössel

1. Opening and welcome (Philippe Karl)

The vice-president, Philippe Karl, called the third APPEL annual general meeting to order at 19:33, welcomed the members attending and confirmed that all necessary formalities had been met and the annual general meeting was therefore quorate. No requests for changes to the agenda had been received.

2. Reports from the Board concerning:

a) Development of the association (Antje Matthes)

The following table shows the number of members by country (as of 30 April 2017):

Mitgliederstatistik		Mitgliederbeiträge	
Land	Anzahl Mitglieder IST	Länderanteil IST	%
Australia	10	4,95%	
Austria	2	0,99%	
Canada	4	1,98%	
France	26	12,87%	
Germany	99	49,01%	
Italy	23	11,39%	
Sweden	5	2,48%	
Switzerland	26	12,87%	
United Kingdom	1	0,50%	
USA	6	2,97%	
Gesamt	202	100,00%	

Currently, APPEL has reached the 200-member mark. In year 2017, APPEL has recorded, up to now, 13 new memberships. In contrast, there are unfortunately also terminations of memberships in accordance with Article 7 Par. 2 of the association's statutes as a result of unpaid subscriptions.

b) Activities promoted by the association in 2016 (Antje Matthes)

In year 2016, APPEL funded various projects in different countries to the total amount of approx. **€ 13,650**. The costs of the projects consisted primarily of subsidies for participants, fees for horse fair stands and external costs for the housing of horses.

Overview of funded projects (rounded to nearest ten €):

Germany April 2016: Funded by APPEL:	Participation in the HansePferd Hamburg horse fair € 6,300 (national budget Germany)
Switzerland April/ May 2016: Funded by APPEL:	Participation in the BEA Bern horse fair € 3,100 (national budget Switzerland: € 1,580 / Special budget: € 1,520)
Germany July 2016: Funded by APPEL:	Workshop for youth promotion ("Légèreté for schoolchildren and students") € 350 (national budget Germany)
Sweden July 2016: Funded by APPEL:	Participation in the ARENA Festival of Classical Dressage in Sparreholm € 900 (national budget Sweden: € 300 / Special budget: € 600)
Italy November 2016: Funded by APPEL:	Participation in the Fieracavalli horse fair in Verona € 2,000 (national budget Italy: € 1,000 / Special budget: € 1,000)
USA November 2016: Funded by APPEL:	Booth at the Andalusian World Cup in Las Vegas € 1,000 (national budget USA/Canada: € 200 / Special budget: € 800)

Note: You will find detailed descriptions of the countries' projects in the APPEL newsletter.

c) Association projects 2016/ 2017

Advertising (Sonja Hellwig)

1. Mailing campaign in Germany with APPEL flyer and new course flyer from Philippe Karl.
2. Association flyer available in five languages: French, English, German, Italian and Swedish. Current changes implemented in the German flyer: new PayPal account (appel.edl@gmail.com) and new association email address (appel.edl@gmail.com) incorporated.
3. A poster of the training plan of the Ecole de Légèreté is available in German and English for horse fairs and other events. The poster will also be on sale shortly.
4. APPEL banner now also available in English.

Newsletter (Ilka Flegel)

The second APPEL newsletter, with comprehensive reports on the projects funded by the association, was recently published. The Board would like to thank all those involved for their contribution to the newsletter in four languages.

In order to be able to inform all members promptly about funded projects, the Board asks all project organisers to send a project report together with a few representative photos from the event to appel.edl@gmail.com at the latest within three weeks after the end of the event.

d) Development of finances and memberships (Antje Matthes)

The balance of the APPEL accounts as of 31.12.2016 was € **4,567.61**.

The current balance of the APPEL accounts as of 30.04.17 is € **12,870.90**, split up into:

National budgets:	€ 8,459.67
Administrative budget:	€ 2,131.84
Special budget:	€ 2,279.39

In year 2016, **33** new memberships and **4** cancellations of membership in APPEL were confirmed.

As of 31.12.2016, the number of members was 196 – as of 30.04.2017 APPEL has **202** members.

3. Annual financial statement 2016 (Antje Matthes)

The APPEL annual accounts are compiled according to German law (§ 4 Abs. 3 EStG) for the determination of profit. Income from membership fees and donations of € **14,725,00** is set against expenditure of € **19,418.46**.

Expenditure consisted of the following items:

Bank fees	-€ 107.06
Postage, telephone, office	-€ 282.65
Business expenses	-€ 2,267.31
External services	-€ 0.00
Subsidies for projects	-€ 8,643.00
Trade fair expenses	-€ 8,118.44

The surplus of income over expenditure is **-€ 4,693.46**. The negative surplus is a result of subsidies and horse fair expenses for the year 2015, which were paid in 2016.

4. Accounts auditor's report (Susanne Buck-Wegener)

The audit report for the business year 2016 was read out. The audit took place on 11.04.2017 at the premises of the equestrian centre Hellwig & Matthes in Pegestorf. The audit covered the APPEL accounts (bank and PayPal) and petty cash. No irregularities were found. The audit report is attached as an appendix.

5. Discharge from liability of the treasurer Antje Matthes

APPEL member Katja Lauer proposed the discharge from liability of the treasurer, Antje Matthes, for the business year 2016.

Decision:

The discharge from liability of the treasurer, Antje Matthes, for the business year 2016 was unanimously agreed, with no abstentions.

6. Discharge from liability of the APPEL Board

APPEL member Moira Walsh proposed the discharge from liability of the complete Board for the business year 2016.

Decision:

The discharge from liability of the complete Board for the business year 2016 was unanimously agreed, with no abstentions.

7. Budget planned for 2017 (Antje Matthes)

The following table shows the current status of the national budgets for 2017 (as of 30.04.2017):

Länderbudget 2017	
Land	Stand Budget 2017
Australia	395,70
Austria	2,09
Canada	156,06
France	655,67
Germany	4.663,03
Italy	885,82
Sweden	134,91
Switzerland	1.503,61
United Kingdom	57,89
USA	4,89
Gesamt	8.459,67

€ 2,279.39 is available in the special budget as of 30.04.2017.

The German project for participation in the Pferd und Jagd 2017 horse fair in Hanover in December 2017, which was planned during the year 2016, was cancelled by the Board in March 2017. Reasons for this were, amongst others, the insufficient and unsuitable presentation times offered by the horse fair management. As a result of a change in the fair management and changes to the fair concept, the originally planned appearance times were shortened or reallocated. Participation in a horse fair is very costly and the benefit for APPEL or the Ecole de Légèreté must justify the use of funds. This was no longer the case for Pferd und Jagd. As a replacement project, a decision was taken to participate in the HansePferd horse fair in Hamburg in April 2018. As a result of projects already planned for Germany in 2018, the Board decided on a transfer of the national budget of Germany up to a maximum of € 5,000.

8. Board elections (Philippe Karl)

By means of the extraordinary general meeting in written form, it was possible for all APPEL members worldwide to take part in the Board elections. The turnout was approx. 60%. The Board would like to thank all members who took part in the elections.

The elections were accompanied by an independent election observer and scrutineer. The results and the scrutineer's report are available. Ilka Flegel read out the report by the auditors *Wedemeyer & Koll. GmbH*.

Quote 1: **“No deficiencies were found in the documentation of either the convening or the evaluation.”**

Quote 2: **“We confirm that Stéphanie Durand, Philippe Karl, Antje Matthes and Sylvia Stössel were elected to the Board for the period from 1 April 2017 up to 31 March 2021.”**

In the constituent board meeting on 01.05.2017, all members of the Board personally accepted their election. The newly elected Board is as follows:

President:	Sylvia Stössel
Vice-president:	Philippe Karl
Treasurer:	Antje Matthes
Secretary:	Stéphanie Durand

Philippe Karl thanked the old Board for their work. Sylvia Stössel paid thanks on behalf of the new Board members for the trust placed in them.

9. Current initiatives to recruit new members (Sonja Hellwig)

1. Members recruit members:
APPEL members recruit a new member and receive as a thank you gift the associations' own organiser (was handed around in the meeting). For further information, see the April 2017 newsletter.
2. Increased discount on spectator fee:
From 01.05.2017, APPEL members now receive a discount of 10% instead of 5% when visiting training courses at the Ecole de Légèreté (EdL). The discount will be paid directly by APPEL on request. For this, please send an email with a receipt signed by the organisers for the spectator fee to appel.edl@gmail.com. The email must specify the bank account or the PayPal account of the payee.
3. 10% discount on advertising items:
APPEL members receive a discount of 10% when buying advertising items (APPEL or EdL) from Reitsport Hellwig. All items can be ordered. For further details go to <http://www.reitanlage-pegestorf.de/reitsport%20hellwig.htm>.

10. Motions received (Antje Matthes)

No motions were received by the Board.

11. Miscellaneous (Philippe Karl)

Under “Miscellaneous”, the members can put questions to the Board.

There follows the results of the discussions arising from the points raised.

Member recruitment:

Kirsten Fleiser presented ideas for further member recruitment. Amongst other things discussed were the involvement of sponsors and the benefits of further personal advantages as a result of APPEL membership. Philippe Karl commented that membership in APPEL is not a question of personal advantages. Members join APPEL because they believe in the philosophy of the Ecole de Légèreté and want to support a truly classical, horse-friendly riding style. Also, not every sponsor is suitable for cooperation with APPEL or the Ecole de Légèreté.

It was agreed that a working group (approx. 5 members) be formed to evaluate concrete suggestions. Suggestions should be submitted to the board (appel.edl@gmail.com) by 31.10.2017. Nigel Head and Kirsten Fleiser have volunteered for the working group. Further interested members should get in touch with Nigel Head by email at nigel.head@gmail.com.

Facebook:

Moira Walsh is administrator of the official APPEL Facebook account. Moira would like to liven up the Facebook presence. To do this, she requires new contributions, for example articles, course announcements, course reports with photos, projects etc. Edith Kappel thinks a forum for equestrian questions would also contribute towards making the presence more interesting. Francesco Melpignano commented that in Italy the Facebook presence of EdL/GIEL (Gruppo Italiano Ecole de Légèreté) is managed by several riding instructors. In order to underline the international presence of APPEL and to support the official APPEL presence with as little effort as possible, Francesco suggests that Facebook contributions from other EdL Facebook accounts be shared worldwide or uploaded to the official APPEL account. A lively discussion followed, with further ideas and suggestions on the subject of Facebook.

On the subject of Facebook, it was also agreed that a working group (approx. 5 members) be formed to evaluate concrete suggestions. Interested members who would like to support the Facebook project group should get in touch with Moira Walsh by email at info@moira-walsh.de.

Question regarding status of national representatives:

The implementation of national representatives was originally designed to support the Board on questions concerning project development and membership. Practice has shown, however, that as a result of the possibility since May 2016 to contact the Board directly via the association's email address, members have been using this possibility. Questions regarding projects and membership as well as payment transactions can thus be clarified quickly and directly. To what extent official national representatives are still necessary will be discussed in one of the next meetings of the Board.

Fieracavalli 2017:

Francesco Melpignano reported that the presence of the school at the Fieracavalli 2016 in Verona (Italy) was a great success. A lot of preparation for 2017 has already been done. As a continuation of the performance by Philippe Karl with High Noon, GIEL would like to enhance their formation internationally at the Fieracavalli 2017 and to invite two or three EdL riding instructors to perform together with their Italian colleagues.

Open Day EdL:

The suggestion by Francesco Melpignano to carry out an international EdL Day (location still to be decided) was accepted. Such a project would be complex and costly, and therefore could only be realised with appropriate sponsors. Philippe Karl commented that the event would have to offer an interesting programme and could be realised possibly in two to three years.

Francesco Melpignano will draw up a concept and submit it to the Board.

Website philippe-karl.com

Antje Matthes informed the members that changes to the official website of Philippe Karl would be made by the end of year.

Philippe Karl closed the general meeting at approx. 21:25 and thanked the attendees for their participation.

Pegestorf, 27.05.2017

Signed:

Antje Matthes

Sylvia Stössel

Attachments:

Attendance list

Audit report