



# The European Blond Breeders Association

# FIERBA

Transcript of the meeting of the 3d of March 2005 in Paris.

Present were:

MR. André BOUAS	- France
MR. Lionel GIRAUDEAU	- France
MR. Lucien KOOB	- Luxemburg
MR. Heinz SOß	- Germany
MRS. Hillary JONES	- England
MR. Ben GARATT	- England
MR. Ed Neerincx	- Holland
MR. Bas BOUMAN	- Holland

## 1.

Word of welcome by Lionel GIRAUDEAU.

Mr. Neerincx thanks Lionel for his kind words of welcome.

## 2.

There are no remarks on the transcript of our meeting, therefore we can give our confirmation to this transcript.

## 3.

Bas reads the incoming letter of the Danish Blond Society. A copy of this letter is added to this transcript.

## 4.

The proposal for financing the FIERBA is handed. All the people present agree on this proposal.

Bas will take the necessary steps to open an account and send the invoices to the members. Proposal is added.

## 5.

Inventory of the numbers of Blond animals in each country.

The list of the numbers is added. For the countries that did not yet handed over the numbers we ask them to send this figures to Bas as soon as possible.

## 6.

During the discussion on the subject how Blond have to be, we came to the following agreement.

- **Calving-ease is very important; we would like to have our cows give natural birth to their calves – if possible without any help at all or with light assistance.**
- **Good development of the animal – long, good muscles, especially on the back and the rear and of the animal – length of the pelvis and wide of the pelvic bone with a good thickness of the loin. Good growth until weaning and continue the growth after weaning**
- **Good suckling abilities – as we are talking of a suckling herd it is of great importance to our breed that a cow has enough milk to feed and let grow her calf.**
- **Finesse of the bones and skin and good functional characteristics, as well as a good, calm and an easy character what makes it possible to easy handling.**

This is what we think a Blond should look like. As already mentioned in the agenda every country can add some specific wishes. Therefore we would like to ask every country to make these specific wishes and send them to the secretary of the FIERBA. We can hand out and discuss these specific wishes in our next meeting and give an approval to those wishes.

## 7.

Inventory of the way of pointing.

During our visit to Holland in November we had an interesting meeting with the Dutch and French Blond Herdbook and NRS (Dutch council of registration and pointing cattle) concerning pointing the animals. Except from a few minor points of difference it seemed that France and Holland use a very similar method of pointing, which is very similar to the way of pointing cattle all over the world. This method knows a linear score.

The great difference to the French method is that there are a number of points that are counted double or triple and that in this way it is still difficult to compare the results.

One of our goals is to come to one European Standard for pointing animals, what makes it easier to compare animals from different countries.

Therefore we need to know the different methods used in each country.

Our suggestion is that we finally come to use the method that is used for pointing cattle all over the world. Nowadays it is only used for milking herds, but we think we can adjust this method for use in suckling herds as well.

Therefore we would like to ask every country to make an inventory how the pointing is arranged and send them to the secretary of the FIERBA.

## 8.

Planning the next meeting.

For the benefit of our Blond breed it is of great importance to have regular contacts. Therefore we would like to plan at least two meetings this year. Hopefully we can increase these to three or four meetings in the future.

As we already agreed in our meeting in Holland the next meeting will take place in Germany in Alsfeld in December the third. The information for this meeting will be send to you.

**9.**

Exchange of dates of importance such as shows.

We like to suggest that everybody send his dates of importance to the secretary to make an European agenda for the National shows or National events that includes shows with Blonds.

10.Closing.

Mr. Neerincx thanks everybody for their presence at this meeting and does hope we can continue on a constructive way of promoting and increasing our beautiful Blond breed. He is convinced that we made a good start and he does hope that in the future all members will be present. For now thank you and enjoy your stay in Paris and we like to see you tomorrow at the Blond show or at any other show in Europe.

On behalf of the FIERBA

Bas BOUMAN

**Things to do for each member.**

**Complete the inventory of the number of animals – figures are still failing of Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, Belgium and Austria.**

**Send the way of pointing the animals to the secretary.**

**Send the dates of National shows.**