

International Judges Training in Jagodina, Serbia from September 15th to 17th, 2023

The Serbian Association (SRB) organized the International Judges Conference for poultry and pigeons in Jagodina, Hotel "Hill," from September 15th to 17th, 2023. The respective events for each section took place in separate conference rooms.

Proceedings of the Pigeon Section:

Friday, September 15, 2023

Arrival of the delegates.

The meeting of the Standard Commission (ESCP) did not take place due to the excused absence of Jean Louis Frindel, Lars van Droogenbroeck, Istvan Rohringer, and Ronald Bube. The topics for discussion were already discussed at the EE Conference in Sofia.

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Participants: According to the attendance list (unfortunately representatives from Western associations, except Austria, Germany and Kosovo, were absent).

8:30 AM: Welcome by the EE Chairman of the Pigeon Section, August Heftberger, and the organizers from the Serbian Association. Serbian organizer Milan Brkic was unable to attend due to illness, and good wishes for his recovery were conveyed.

8:40 AM: Report on Serbian pigeon breeds – SRB
Each conference participant received a folder with information about the relevant breeds.

9:00 AM: Differences between the Serbian Highflyer and the Nisch Highflyer.
Both are very old local breeds with specific differences comparing the head.

9:30 AM: a SRB representative presented the Somborski Tumbler in words and images. It is a medium-sized pigeon with a long, curved head profile and a thick beak.

9:50 AM: The Stapar Tumbler was introduced by the SRB. This breed is included in the EE standard. This small, compact pigeon with hanging wings originated in Stapar in 1878.

10:40 AM: The Backa long beak Tumbler (Sombor) was presented after the coffee break (SRB). This long-beaked tumbler is also included in the EE standard and is bred with a low, close-fitting crest.

11:00 AM: Georg Sattlecker (A) demonstrated the proper cleaning/grooming of a Hungarian in a PowerPoint presentation. He then introduced and discussed the Maltese.

11:30 AM: The Banate was presented (SRB). This breed is not included in the EE standard but belongs to the group of utility pigeons.

After lunch, an animal discussion was organized for the Serbian pigeon breeds presented in the morning. In a beautifully decorated tent, the Serbian Association showed pigeons and various poultry breeds. This practical discussion with live animals was very fruitful and complemented the theoretical presentation in the morning.

2:00 PM: Jürgen Weichold (D) extensively discussed the Fantail and Jacobin as international breeds through a PowerPoint presentation.

3:15 PM: The lecture on Pomeranian Croppers, presented with many pictures by Arnold Tuidar (A), captivated attentive listeners. This large cropper has many enthusiasts in Serbia.

3:45 PM: After the coffee break, August Heftberger (ESCP), the section chairman, presented animal welfare-relevant features using various pigeon breeds, especially examples of wattle pigeons. While the issue of animal welfare is treated differently in individual countries, as pigeon breeders, we strive to prioritize the well-being of our entrusted charges. Judges play a significant role in implementing this at our exhibitions, aligning with ESKT regulations. Overtyping and animal welfare are to be harmonized. August Heftberger also provided information on exhibition events within the EE and the restrictions imposed by veterinary authorities due to bird flu. Consequently, a joint European exhibition at the EE level in the Czech Republic will not be possible.

Following this, inquiries and requests from National Judges Associations were addressed. The event concluded with the presentation of EE judges' badges. The harmonious conference concluded around 5:45 PM. The organizers of the Serbian Association were warmly thanked by the section chairman and acknowledged with the presentation of an EE medal.

Due to the extensive discussion of topics on Saturday, a continuation of the conference on Sunday, September 17, 2023, was not deemed necessary and participants could begin their journey home.

Jürgen Weichold

Secretary