

WORLD BUDGERIGAR ORGANISATION

Minutes of the twenty fifth Anniversary meeting of the WORLD BUDGERIGAR ORGANISATION held on Friday 23rd August 2019 in Karlsruhe, Germany; commencing at 10.10 hrs.

Present:

Carlos Ramôa	Chairman
Grant Findlay	Vice Chairman
Ghalib Al-Nasser	Secretary/Treasurer
Gerd Bleicher	Immediate Past Chairman

Guests:

Karl-Friedrich Scharrelmann	AZ President
Avi Alberto Rubens	English-Hebrew Interpreter

Australia	Neale Love	
Austria	Leopold Gepp	
Bangladesh	Sutanur Rahman	
Belgium	Jean Peelman	
Canada	Jeff Coles (HDBS)	
Denmark	Bjarne Christiansen	Svend Erik Korgaard
Egypt	Abdelrahman Khedr	
France	Pierre Channoy (UOF)	Michel Dudognon (UOF)
Germany	Christian Back (AZ)	Wilfried Hornung (AZ)
	Frank Nietgen (DSV)	Wilhelm Trimborn (DSV)
Holland	Han Schrijver	Jan van Meeteren
Hungary	Tibor Gyerkó	Zita Gyerkó
Israel	Yosy Hayo	Moti Halabi
Italy	Marco Barni	Dino Pocecco
Portugal	Silvio Duarte	Rui Teixeira
Romania	Florin Orzea (AOR)	Mojtabl Sarfarzian (FOR)
Russia	Tania Okorokova	
South Africa	Albert Olivier	
Spain	Javier Ferrer Cano	Quique Sanchez Pumarega
Slovakia	Frantisek Lukovic	Kval Ludovit
Sweden	Bjorn Johansson (SUH)	Sten-Åke Morgander (SUH)
Switzerland	Jean-Pierre Rotzetter (SWV)	
Turkey	Hakan Karadenizli	Guray Ozkul
United Arab Emirates	Hamad Al-Madani	
United Kingdom	Grant Findlay (BS)	

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman, Carlos Ramôa, welcomed delegates to the 26th meeting of the WBO hosted by the AZ Germany. He then read out his report as follows "I welcome you all to the meeting and thank you for your presence here. On behalf of the WBO I would like to start this speech to you by thanking the DWV and the AZ for hosting this meeting.

We are here in this meeting representing 24 countries and 26 societies with 38 delegates attending the meeting. So, a big thank you goes to all those present here today travelling from the four corners of the world, to support the WBO and our hobby. Thank you. It is of course a very special meeting and occasion, since our organization celebrates its 25th foundation anniversary.

It is such in order to remember that we have here among us 4 persons that also attended the first WBO meeting, curiously also here in Karlsruhe, 25 years ago, a special salute goes to them:

Jean Peelman from Belgium, Ghalib Al-Nasser and Grant Findlay from the UK and Bjarne Christiansen from Denmark.

I would also like to refer to our Past Chairman Roger Carr that chaired that first meeting, our most warm salute to Roger in this moment.

I would like to thank also Secretary Ghalib, for his involvement and continuous commitment to the WBO, and the other members of our Executive Committee for all the help they have assured me in this past year; Vice Chairman Grant Findlay and Immediate Past Chairman Gerd Bleicher. I have been very fortunate to count on these 3 E.C. members, they have always shown tremendous commitment, honesty and respect, making this term very motivating.

I ask you also to remember those friends and fanciers who are no longer with us, and have left us forever. They all are a part of our history and we should always remember them with a smile.

I would like to give a special welcome to the societies that recently joined our ranks: Periquitos Mex, from Mexico, Budgerigar Society of Bangladesh, from Bangladesh, Israel Federation of Bird Breeders, from Israel, Indonesian Budgerigar Association, from Indonesia, Ornithological Federation of Romania, from Romania and Budgerigar Club of Thailand, from Thailand.

Also, a special welcome to those delegates attending the meeting for the first time: Neale Love from Australia; Sutanur Rahman from Bangladesh; Svend Korgaard from Denmark; Michel Dudognon from France; Yosi Hayo, Moti Halabi and Avi Rubens as interpreter from Israel; Florin Orzea and Calin Florin from Romania; Tania Okorokova from the Russian Federation; Sten-Ake Morgander from Sweden; Jean-Pierre Rotzetter from Switzerland and Hamad Al-Madani from the United Arab Emirates. Thank you all and welcome to the meeting.

I would like to finish these opening remarks by congratulating the DWV/AZ for the wonderful show they have organized and hope that all delegates would enjoy the weekend.

I hope to see you all in good health next year in Stoke-on-Trent, United Kingdom, where the WBO meeting will coincide with the Budgerigar Society Convention 2020.

At the end of our agenda, we will have a special anniversary cake and champagne celebration, in honor of the WBO. I wish you all a productive and interesting meeting. Thank you very much”.

The AZ President Karl-Friedrich Scharrelmann also addressed the meeting and said “I would like to welcome you here in Karlsruhe. I wish you a good and successful meeting. On your 25th Birthday, I congratulate you very much and send the greetings of the AZ Executive Committee. I thank you for the invitation and wish you a pleasant stay in the Schwarzwald Hall. Have a good time and thank you”.

The Chairman called for a minute silence in the memory of Gerald Binks, last year’s WBO Gould Award winner, who passed away last month.

2. Apologies for Absence

The Secretary, Ghalib Al-Nasser, informed the meeting that he received apologies for absence from Czech Republic, Eire, France (AFO), India, Lebanon, Norway & Ukraine.

The Secretary also read out a letter from Roger Carr (Past Chairman) that he sent to the secretary “I would be greatly obliged if you would pass on my good wishes to those attending the twenty fifth anniversary meeting of the WBO, especially those who were at the first meeting.

When we first met it was with a degree of trepidation as to what the future of the organisation would be, but thanks to the dedication of many loyal members and societies considerable progress has been made. A

standard show cage, ring colours (even COM followed us on this one) and a common ideal and standard of perfection are just a few of the things we have achieved. With goodwill the organisation will continue to lead the way with an ever-expanding family.

As far as the WBO family is concerned, I feel I must stress your involvement in assisting this cause. Your dedication to finding and encouraging new member countries is to be applauded and your ability to keep them within the fold admired.

Finally, I would like it recorded that it is thanks to the BS and their wisdom and generosity in setting up the first two exploratory meetings that the organisation exists.

To all those who have been involved with the WBO and those that may be involved in the future I would like to express a sincere vote of thanks”.

3. Arrangements for the Meeting

C. Back, as chairman of his society the DWV, also welcomed all the delegates and visitors attending this special meeting. He said that the first Europa championship show was held in 1984 and in 1994 the WBO held their first meeting during the weekend of the show. He highlighted the arrangements and times for the morning break, lunch and the buffet at the hotel in the evening.

C. Back also informed the meeting that there is a free entry to the show on both days for the delegates who will show their ID pass and the opening times for both days. The presentation ceremony will be at 12.00 on Sunday. The Saturday evening get together will be at the Beer Garden.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th July 2018

Those minutes were circulated on 13th November 2018 to all delegates and society officials by email. The Chairman thanked the Secretary for producing a comprehensive set of Minutes which reflected a good record of the meeting.

It was proposed by A. Olivier, seconded by G. Findlay, that the Minutes of the last meeting be approved as a true record. The delegates, who were present at the last meeting, unanimously approved the motion.

5. Matters arising

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had not received any comments about the Minutes by the closing date of 1st February 2019 to bring forward to the meeting.

6. Research – Feather Problems in Budgerigars

The Chairman circulated a report on the project on “Feather Problems in Budgerigars” that was conducted by University of Alto Douro in Portugal and also gave a power point presentation about the work. The report read out as follows: “According to the guidelines approved by the 2017 WBO meeting in Budapest, the study began with the preparation of the strategy to be applied to the study in order to begin the practical work.

At the 2018 meeting in South Africa, I passed on a request from the University to have live birds supplied for the study and communicated the overall strategy for the study. After that meeting, a consignment of birds from England (24 birds) was delivered to the Lab in January 2019.

According to the planned procedure, out of the 24 birds, PCR tests were made on 16 of them both for Polyomavirus and Circovirus. The results from those tests were somewhat surprising, since all of the birds tested **POSITIVE** for Circovirus (Pbfd – Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease) and all tested **NEGATIVE** for Polyomavirus (APV).

At this stage it was decided not to proceed to sequence the strains of viruses found and analyse the possibility that all birds in the consignment were contaminated between them, since they were transported in

the same box for some days. It was decided to wait for some blood samples obtained from some breeders in Germany, Austria and Hungary, from different breeders and bird rooms.

A total of 17 blood samples arrived in June and were recently tested both for Polyomavirus and Circovirus and some results are already available. All the blood samples tested **NEGATIVE** for Circovirus. Regarding Polyomavirus some were **POSITIVE** and others **NEGATIVE**, and in a group of samples coming from a single breeder **ALL** were **POSITIVE** for Polyomavirus and with a very strong signal. The University has now asked for photos of these birds, and the possibility of getting some of these birds or/and to be able to analyse and follow the evolution of the symptoms in these birds.

In parallel, necropsy and histopathology studies were and are being conducted in order to verify the compatibility between them and the PCR test results.

According to the University team, we should bear in mind that the viruses can be found not only in the blood stream of the birds but also the feather follicles, and as such, we should wait for the histopathology tests in order to be able to extract any conclusion.

The next step will be to start the identification of the dominant virus strain or strains that are most likely to induce the most serious disease condition.

A more comprehensive report is being presented today by means of a power point presentation and a full scientific report of the work done at the next meeting.

According to the procedure decided, we inform you that the total cost of the study is at this time in the amount of 790.00 euros”.

The Chairman then proceeded with the power point presentation about the University findings, including tables of results and the project structure both of the work done and of the way forward in the next months.

7. **Gould Award**

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Chairman had made the presentation of the 2018 Gould Award to the late Gerald Binks on 30th April 2018 personally at his home in England. Gerald was very happy and proud to receive the award and sent letters both to the Chairman and Secretary to thank the WBO for the award. Sadly, we registered Gerald’s passing last month.

2019 Award – The Secretary informed the meeting that there were 2 nominations received by the closing date of 31st December 2018; one for Roy Aplin received from Germany (DSV) and one for Leo Endres received from Germany (AZ).

The Vice Chairman, Grant Findlay read out the two nominations that were circulated with the Agenda on 20th July and the biographical notes sent.

The Chairman then informed the meeting that the vote will be conducted as a secret ballot at this meeting according to the new Rules one vote per society.

Ballot papers were handed to each society present at the meeting and after counting the votes Leo Endres received 20 votes and Roy Aplin received 8 votes hence the 2019 Gould Award winner is Leo Endres. The presentation will be made to him at the evening Gala Dinner by the WBO Executive Committee.

The Secretary informed the meeting that the closing date for nominations for the 2020 Gould Award should be with him by 31st December the very latest and must be done on the society’s official headed paper signed by a senior official of that society and to contain no more than **200** biographical words.

8. **Colour Standards**

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Colour Standards for the Single Factor Melanistic Spangle (SFMS) was approved by member societies early in the year. At the last WBO meeting last year it was agreed to present the Standard for the Double Factor Melanistic Spangle (DFMS) for approval. The proposed Standard was enclosed with the agenda (see below).

WBO PROPOSED COLOUR STANDARD FOR THE DOUBLE FACTOR MELANISTIC SPANGLE - 2019

DOUBLE FACTOR MELANISTIC SPANGLE YELLOW

General body colour:	rump, breast and under parts light green of an even depth of colour throughout, approximately 50% of the colour of the normal bird.
Mask:	buttercup yellow. The mask, frontal and crown should be clear and free from all markings.
Markings:	on cheeks, back of head, neck, no markings of any kind. Wings are yellow and any wing markings are considered a major fault.
Cere:	blue in cocks, brown in hens.
Eyes:	black with a white iris.
Cheek patches:	violet or silver white
Primary wing flights:	yellow without any markings.
Primary tail feathers:	Yellow without any markings.
Feet and legs:	light blue to light greyish

NOTE 1

The depth of body colour in D.F. Melanistic Spangle Yellow will vary in accordance with the base body colour it is masking

NOTE 2

The D.F. Melanistic Spangle White combined with any Yellowface or Goldenface mutation is recognised and the white colour will be suffused with yellow the shade of which will depend on the yellow or goldenface mutation involved.

NOTE 3 (already approved)

The Melanistic Spangle variety may be combined visibly with other varieties.

NOTE 4 (already approved)

The Melanistic Spangle is also known as the Danish Dominant or Cleartail.

The Chairman then opened the debate on this topic.

C. Back – felt that there was no reason to introduce this variety as it is more melanistic in the body and there is no challenge in this variety as it has more colour in the body. The judge will have more problems between badly marked single factors and double factors and recommended that we should think about it more before we reach a decision.

G. Bleicher – said that there are no classes for the DFMS at the show and will be in the new mutation class.

A. Olivier – proposed that we scrap the whole idea.

B. Christiansen – he recognised the points made by the previous speakers but felt that if we have a standard for the SFMS then we need to consider a standard for the DFMS.

C. Back – said that in Germany we have to fight for each breeder and what they breed. We have classes for combination birds.

J. Peelman – he showed photos of the DFMS on mobile with variation in the body colour.

The Chairman, in concluding the debate, said that we should give it more time to study the variety and have a look at photos and birds at tomorrow's show and discuss it further at next year's meetings on the previewed agenda item.

B. Christiansen promised to supply photos to the Secretary ready for next year's meeting.

9. Accounts

The audited accounts for 2018, circulated on 4th June and 20th July 2019, were proposed by A. Olivier which was seconded by N. Love and approved unanimously. The accounts showed an excess of income over expenditure of **£1,122.32**. The closing account by 31st December 2018 was **£4,682.25**. The Treasurer

informed the meeting that the bank account as of 5th August stood at **£7,887**. The expenses of this meeting and other expenses to be paid out in due course. The PayPal account is now operative and societies can pay the annual fee by PayPal.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for the presentation of the Accounts.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported on the recommendation from the Executive Committee that subscription rates for next year 2020, to be kept the same amount as of this year. These rates, were approved by the meeting on a proposition by A. Olivier, seconded by M. Barni, are:

<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Annual Rate (£)</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>
5000 or above	800	10
3000 to 4999	640	8
1000 to 2999	400	6
500 to 999	210	4
Less than 500	80	2

10. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary, Ghalib Al-Nasser, read out his report: “This is a momentous year for our organisation as we return to Karlsruhe to celebrate our 25th Silver Anniversary. Our first meeting was in the Queens Hotel on 12th August 1994 and delegates from 19 societies representing 16 countries attended that first meeting. Looking around the table I can see that only four who attended that meeting are here today and congratulations and well done to Jean Peelman, Bjarne Christiansen, Grant Findlay and myself for coming back to this special meeting. I would like to think that our organisation and the hobby in general will still be around in 2044 to celebrate our 50th Golden Anniversary although for sure I shall not be around.

The organisation has gone from strength to strength during the past 25 years where in that first year we had 21 societies representing 18 countries as members and look at us now with 59 societies representing 46 countries as members. Well done to the WBO!

More and more countries from the Arab World, Asia and Latin America are joining our ranks and since our previous meeting last July in South Africa we’ve had Bangladesh (their delegate is present here), Indonesia, Israel (re-joining), Mexico and Thailand joining our ranks and a hearty welcome to you all for becoming part of the budgerigar family of nations.

This is our seventh WBO World Championship Show, this year staged in conjunction with the AZ European Championship Show. We welcome the international judges Neale Love (Australia), Jeff Coles (Canada), Albert Olivier (South Africa), Clemens Keller (Germany) and myself. The Colour Budgerigars are to be judged tomorrow by Günter Huber (Austria), Peter Hofmann (Germany) & Rolf Schindelmeiser (Germany).

Our friend Christian, ably assisted by Tibor and their team, have done a great job in organising this meeting as well as the show. Christian will have given us some statistics about the show tomorrow so we all should congratulate the organising team for their great effort in staging this event.

Since our meeting in Bloemfontein, South Africa, last July I have communicated with all delegates by email five times (13th August, 20th July, 4th June, 4th March and 13th November 2018). All of those communications were also sent to officials of the affiliated societies. I also communicate with many delegates by telephone or email throughout the year when necessary.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the WBO Executive Committee (Carlos, Grant & Gerd) for their support and guidance throughout the year when there are difficult issues to deal with.

Membership: We are at our strongest now with 59 societies from 46 countries spreading across the 6 continents affiliated to us and hopefully more to come. As I said earlier, the influx of the new societies is

coming from the Arab countries, Asia and Latin America. However, we need to understand and accept that these new societies have different culture and outlook. We should always offer them as much assistance as we can but not judge them to our standards where some of our societies have been in existence for a very, very long time.

As I mentioned in my previous reports the big problem we face is splinter groups from existing societies who break away and want to join the WBO. Thankfully our new amended Constitution has put a stop to splinter groups joining us but that too is causing problems and upset as each society wishes to join our family of nations. It is never easy.

Website: The WBO website is constantly being updated and currently the 2019 Rosette Winners file is being updated with names and photos of winners. However, there are still a few societies who have not sent me the Information Sheet that I have sent out on 4 separate occasions since the start of the year as from that Information Sheet I can extract the show date and town of your national show as well as updating all the necessary details of the society and delegates; so please assist in sending it back to me as soon as you can and also results of your shows.

Research Articles: I was pleased to have been able to obtain a research article on Egg Binding by Dr. David Phalen from Australia. It is already on the website and I shall circulate it to all affiliated societies soon. I have been promised two more articles from Australian vets.

My usual appeal is for you all to co-operate with me by supplying me with the information that I request from time to time. **THANK YOU**".

Ring Colour Sequence: The Secretary, on behalf of the Executive Committee, asked if any society will experience any difficulty in the agreed change for the Ring Colour Sequence as agreed last year in changing the Pastel Green and Orange colours as below.

Pastel Green change to Dark Green 3292 U	RAL 6026	effective in 2020
Orange change to Dark Brown 1535 U	RAL 8003	effective in 2022

A. Olivier asked to why this change as COM have already adopted our 6-year colour sequence cycle in the past.

The Chairman explained that those two lighter colours were causing problems with the lettering and the darker colours are far better for readability and for the manufacturers to produce.

11. **WBO World Show**

A. Olivier, on behalf of his society The Budgerigar Society of South Africa, said that they had a good show last year but there were no outside exhibitors. The judges were all from outside South Africa with C. Back, G. Findlay & C. Ramôa (all from Europe), B. Wilson (USA) and J. Fletcher (Australia). The entry was over 1000 birds.

The Chairman commented on the high quality of exhibits and the new style wire show cage (open from all sides) with advantages and disadvantages.

The Chairman then handed out new guidelines for future WBO World Shows that is the recommendation from the WBO Executive Committee and then read them out to the meeting. The Guidelines are as follows:

WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW GUIDELINES

1. To coincide with the WBO Annual Delegates Meeting with venue and date to be decided by the WBO meeting upon the received invitation of a member society.
2. To be organised with a WBO formulated standard classification.

3. To follow the WBO guidelines on showing and judging including WBO Standard.
4. To be judged by judges on the approved WBO International Judges Panel with consideration to as wide a geographical spread as possible and approved by the WBO Executive Committee.
5. To be awarded special and prestigious WBO patronage.
6. To accept participation of birds and exhibitors from all WBO affiliated societies only.
7. To accept the collaboration of the foreign delegates in the different tasks of the show organisation (feeding/watering of birds, stewarding etc ...).
8. To provide free admission to the show for the WBO Executive Committee and all WBO delegates participating at the meeting.
9. To accept the appointed WBO World Show Liaison Officer who will assist in marketing the show worldwide and to liaise with member countries and investigate the import and export legislation and rules for the host country relating to bird transportation and other related matters.
10. To allow the WBO Judges Test to take place at the show.

H. Schrijver asked that the WBO Judges Test be explained more to the societies who do not run a Judges Training Scheme. This was done by the Secretary.

The Guidelines were put to the vote by the Chairman and accepted unanimously.

12. **Nominations for Vice Chairman**

The Chairman said that under the new Constitution the Vice Chairman needs to be elected at the General Council meeting for a period of 3 years. The current Vice Chairman Grant Findlay is willing to stand again for re-election and his name will be on the ballot. There were no further nominations so G. Findlay was re-elected for a further term of 3 years.

Grant Findlay thanked the delegates very much for their trust in him and it had been a great honour for him to serve the WBO as Vice Chairman over the past three years. He looked forward to continuing to support the Chairman and Executive Committee and member countries to the best of his abilities.

The Secretary then informed the meeting that the position of Chairman will be up for re-election for 2020 and Carlos is happy to stand again for re-election for a 3-year term under the new Constitution. Any new nominations for this post have to be nominated by two countries and accepted by the country in which the nominee resides (Rule 9.v & vi). All new nominations to be sent to the Secretary by 31/12/2019.

C. Back asked to why the Vice Chairman is elected on the day while the Chairman by nomination at the end of the year.

G. Bleicher explained that this is historical and both the Chairman & Secretary are independent officers while the Vice Chairman is elected from the delegates present at the meeting.

13. **Delegates Update**

The Chairman asked delegates for updates from their countries.

Germany (DWW) – C. Back gave details of the show for tomorrow by saying that there are 1261 exhibition budgerigars and 763 colour budgerigars entered. We need to recognise that the colour budgerigar breed is becoming popular with 20 more breeders and specially with the newcomers. There are 196 exhibitors at the show with 21 young exhibitors. Countries that are participating at the show are Austria, Belgium, Czech

Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain & Switzerland.

Hungary – it is becoming hard in the country and more want to breed the colour budgerigar. There were 250 birds at the baby show.

Australia – just had the National late May in Brisbane. The State of Victoria won the competition again. The fancy is growing very well with more junior exhibitors. The auctions are very popular with one pair sold for a big amount which is becoming detrimental to our newcomers. We do our best to try and educate our newcomers to the hobby.

Austria – we have 250 members with exhibitors from other countries. The Baby Show is in April and the national in December.

Bangladesh – last year we had our national show with good entry and this year we have around 400 members.

Belgium – colour budgerigars were more at this year's national.

Slovakia – We had 320 birds at our young stock show. Next year we shall celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Our National show will be held in November.

Canada (HDBS) – hobby is on the decline as not enough young people taking up the hobby. Lost 2 shows last year. We do not have colour budgerigars to bring to our hobby. Big country but cannot encourage the newcomers.

Denmark – hobby is surviving with small increase in membership. Next month is our National show with number of exhibits increasing.

Egypt – we had a successful show last September judged by Dirk Meskens (Belgium). This year our show will be judged by Ghalib and hope that we will have more birds this year.

France (UOF) – colour budgerigars are on the increase at our shows. Special distinction for judges from the WBO.

Germany (DSV) – changed show venue from 2 years ago and entry improved to 1400. Show budgerigars increased so we are staying in the same venue for the next 4 years. **G. Bleicher** said that we used special databased system. The Berlin branch tried something different where exhibitors entered a special card and we can adopt it for our National.

Holland – we had 800 birds at our National last year. Unfortunately, there are no newcomers to the hobby. We are using the promotion and relegation system for exhibitors as from this year.

Israel – great honour to be accepted again as a member of the WBO. We have new fanciers who are more enthusiastic who are pushing the federation forward. Last year Carlos visited us and seen our enthusiasm. The new group is very young and enthusiastic.

Italy – slight increase in the normal budgies because of high cost while the colour budgies are becoming very popular with the young fanciers and because of cost. In May we had 800 birds at our show with 100 members. The National will be held in Reggio Emilio with 700 in total. We give some patronage to shows in the middle and south of the country. In 2021 we will be hosting the WBO show and meeting and we are thinking of having it in Rome. Next year we are organising a special event in Rome on 21st & 22nd March. It will be a Technical Meeting with many interesting subjects (programme leaflet supplied at the meeting). It is our chance to meet with our friends from other countries. There will be the technical subjects on one day and the breeder's topics on the other day. We are searching for a very good hotel and we strongly advise for everyone to come.

Portugal – our society is not big with 100 members but the colour budgerigar is moving things forward. New members are coming through the events as newcomers can participate. The colour budgerigar is helping us to move forward.

Romania (AOR) – about 2 years ago we introduced the colour budgerigar and Hagaromo into our show classification and we had 40 colour budgerigars and 20 Hagaromos. More newcomers are joining our society through the colour budgerigar because they are cheap to buy. Our National show is in November.

Russia – we are very young club with not many members in it but we are trying to develop slowly. Our national will be later in the year and we are trying to promote the hobby. we are trying to bring the quality birds in but it is a slow process.

South Africa – we are one of the oldest societies in the world. We lose members but we also gain members and last month we had our national with 1200 birds. Last year we had the new type show cage and we also introduced new computer program to our shows.

Spain – we are small but on the increase. Now we have more colour budgerigars at the shows. We are very happy to attend the meeting for the first time.

Sweden (SUH) – we are a small society and we have many issues with the authorities about keeping birds. We also have social media problems as some only have few birds. We are trying to educate our breeders on how to keep birds.

The Chairman said that we need to educate people on how to become breeders and exhibitors. We need the WBO to take the lead in producing details of this.

Turkey – the TKKKF is our big federation and we have 5 big shows with 5000 birds of which 4000 are canaries with the rest made up by the budgerigars and other species. We do not have a specialist budgerigar show now but have more quality birds in Turkey now.

UAR – last year we had a successful show with 400+ budgies judged by Ghalib. We are a small society and are having 2 shows with a young stock show in April and the National in December.

United Kingdom (B.S.) – we have 2400 members and 120 shows per year. We are attracting new members by the special deal of 2 years for the price of one year. We reduced the show status by one (Beginner section). We have increased the classes for the colour budgerigar at our club show next month. Next year is our 95th Anniversary. We are looking to attract potential new members but also to retain existing new members through the new website.

The Chairman thanked the delegates for their input regarding the situation in their societies/countries.

14. **Date & Venue of future Meetings**

The Secretary informed the meeting that the WBO is in a strong position that meetings for the next 6 years have already been notified in the past and accepted with United Kingdom (2020), Italy (2021), Belgium (27th/28th August 2022), Egypt (September 2023), Turkey (2024) and the B.S. U.K. (June 2025) to celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

G. Findlay gave brief details about next year's meeting which will be held in Stoke on Trent, England on 5th - 7th June to celebrate the Budgerigar Society (U.K.) 95th Anniversary. Grant distributed to all delegates the hotel booking form and the programme for the weekend detailing all the speakers and judges invited. He asked all delegates to book by 31 March, 2020 at the very latest as hotel rooms would be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The Chairman thanked all the societies for their invitations and said how wonderful it is that we have a full programme until and including 2025.

15. **Any Other Business**

H. Al-Madani, on behalf of his society the United Arab Emirates, extended an invitation to hold the 2026 WBO meeting in Dubai during December which was kindly accepted.

A. Khedr said that national societies are doing their best to encourage breeders to join their societies. The WBO needs to be involved to give credibility if the new breeders can be informed that they are involved with the WBO as well.

The Chairman suggested that perhaps the WBO can produce a membership diploma in the future.

The Chairman thanked the delegates for their attendance and contribution to this meeting and hoped to have a nice event over the weekend and closed the meeting at 14.40 hrs. He then invited members to a glass of champagne to celebrate the 25th Anniversary and to cut the special anniversary cake.

M. Barni passed a vote of Thanks to the Chair.