



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bernried am Starnberger See – 11th March 2018

Annual Report Christian de Langlade

Dear Members and Friends,

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the AIAT, I am particularly happy that you are able to join us here in Bernried for our Annual General Meeting!

My thanks go especially to Günzel Graf von der Schulenburg, President of AIAT-Deutschland and to his team, Josef Steigengerger, Vice-President of AIAT-Deutschland and Mayor of Bernried, Hartmuth Huber, Günter Ortner, Dorothea von Eberhardt. Thank you, too, to all the kind people in Bernried and district, who helped in all ways to make this meeting unforgettable among the beautiful landscape of Bavaria.

Of course, I'm extremely pleased to welcome here delegates from the following countries:

from **Belgium**: Koen Depaepe, who will also represent **Luxemburg** this year,
from **Switzerland**: Heiner Staub,
from **Germany**: Graf von der Schulenburg, also representing **Austria**,
from **Denmark**: Henrik Koier Andersen, who organized with huge success the last meeting in Copenhagen,
and from **France**: Alain Bahuchet, President of the Association Française d'Attelage.

A warm welcome also to José Juan Morales Fernandez, Vice President of the AIAT, representing **Spain**, and also **Chile** for José Miguel Guzman Lyon, **Portugal** for José Castro Canelas, President of Associação Portuguesa de Apatrelagem, and our new member-country the **Principality of Andorra**.

Welcome Rosemary Neale for **Great Britain**, in the absence of Richard James, Enzo Calvi for **Italy**, Ad van der Pluijm for the **Netherlands**.

I'm glad to welcome here Andrzej Novak-Zemplinski, representing **Poland**, and we are also very happy to welcome the representatives of a Czech delegation, Mrs Lenka Gotthardova and Msrs Jiri Hladic and Milan Novak, who are here as observers.

I wish to greet with sincere delight all those who are working and giving freely so much of their time during the driving season – organizers of events, judges, technical delegates - who are keen to meet once a year to coordinate our sport.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all those who are interested in traditional driving and have come to witness our activities. I hope we can meet their expectations here in a warm atmosphere of friendship.

You know that we all are very committed to the principle that our association brings together friends – always happy to meet in the same spirit without thinking of their own interest and without monetary gain. We see only too often the ambience between friends destroyed by the obsession for money.

Let's go on with what we have built for 10 years, enjoying our passion acting with unselfishness and friendship between all our members.

I must now come to several points which need consideration and answer some questions which regularly occur.

* In some countries members of our association, several carriage-driving clubs or associations are fighting each other, some of them even copying more or less our rules.

Do not worry about that. Those who wish to copy us obviously think that our concept is good. Before launching "Attelage de Tradition", I had written to Prince Philip to ask his opinion about this idea and he had answered my letter very encouragingly approving of our rules.

The AIAT accepts and will only recognise one association per country. The AIAT will not interfere in the affairs of member countries but will always try to smooth things over. I personally will always help where I can as much as possible.

* As to the carriages, if we accept new build vehicles in the same way as old carriages, we wouldn't have any old one in years to come. Our statutes state very precisely that the aim of our carriage driving meetings is the use of age-old carriages, repaired or restored, with the viewpoint of conservation of our horse-drawn heritage. This has been achieved with the help of very capable restorers and craftsmen.

Of course, we accept the participation of new-build carriages in our CIATs with a small penalty. I, of course, want to believe in the fairness to the drivers when entering their carriage in an "Attelage", as anyone misleading us of the wrong age of his carriage has no place in our competitions.

Having said this, in your name and in mine, I particularly wish to thank Mr Stief after the visit of his extremely interesting collection. He has warmly welcomed a large group of us in Meitingen. This visit has been again an occasion for all of us to view and understand the beauty of these old carriages, to understand the love and the energy necessary for the conservation and the safe keeping for future generations of these beautiful vehicles!

* Once more, I want to underline the fact that only those events that precisely observe our rules may be called CAT (Concours d'Attelage de Tradition) or CIAT (Concours International d'Attelage de Tradition). All other kinds of events (rallies, parades, corsos, drives, picnics and other outings) are known as ATM (Attelage de Tradition Meeting). These terms are most important for drivers. It is these terms that enable exhibitors and spectators to assess the kind of event they can expect.

It was local traditional events that led to the setting up of national organizations, which united in the AIAT. It is one fundamental feature of our organization to steer away from any national or international federation, so as not to run the risk of giving up our philosophy, the atmosphere of our events and our freedom.

I know that some national federations are trying to take over “Attelage”. Let’s stay independent and keep the spirit of the traditional age-old equipage.

Thanks to the experience gained at our events, many drivers have made progress, both in the art of turn-out and also in the art of schooling horses for driving. We all know that driving a horse can lead to unpredictable situations; therefore, we must obey the rules, and drive in a methodical and safe manner if we hope to avoid accidents.

It is with great pleasure that I observe the number of events increasing year by year. This is evidence of the fact that our rules, by accepting any type of traditional turnout create confidence and fill the drivers with enthusiasm. Naturally, we demand a certain level of driving ability and competitive spirit! *Skill and fun!* but we must not forget that every kind of driving-event should be a festive event, too.

* I wish to thank our Majors, who have helped our association since the beginning (Sue de Brantes, José Juan Morales Fernandez, Graf von der Schulenburg, Antonio Gutierrez, Luciano Trabajo, Jan Verhagen, my wife and myself) for the essential financial support of the AIAT.

Finally, I would like to thank José Juan Morales and Linda Depaepe, my colleagues on the board, for the excellent job they have done. The internal audit of our accounts has been submitted to the national delegates, and they have been approved.

José Juan will now speak to you then Linda Depaepe will present the Provisional Calendar for 2018.

Thank you for your attention.