



INTERBULL BUSINESS MEETINGS

Meetings 01 and 02 Minutes

Dates: Saturday, 26 August 2023 13:30 – 15:30 and
Sunday, 27 August 2023 13:30 – 15:00

Venue: Centre de Congrès de Lyon, France, Room Prestige Gratte Ciel

Agenda (Saturday, 26 August 2023)

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| 1. Opening and Welcome | Matthew Shaffer |
| 2. Adoption of Agenda | Matthew Shaffer |
| 3. Interbull Governance | Matthew Shaffer |
| a. Governance Review | |
| b. Strategic Planning | |
| c. Steering Committee Updates | |
| d. Steering Committee Membership | |
| 4. Interbull Centre Management Update | Toine Roosen |
| 5. Interbull Funding Models | Brian Van Doormaal |
| 6. Discussion | Matthew Shaffer |
| 7. 40 Years Interbull | Reinhard Reents |

Agenda (Sunday, 27 August 2023)

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| 1. Re-Opening and Welcome Back | Matthew Shaffer |
| 2. ICAR and Sustainability | Marie Mourot |
| 3. ITC Update / Introduction to Follow up to the 2023 Interbull
Technical Workshop | Valentina Palucci |
| a. Providing International Evaluations in the
Genomic Era | Pete Sullivan |
| b. New Traits | Ezequiel Nicolazzi |
| 4. Other Matters and Open Discussion | Matthew Shaffer |
| 5. Future Events | Marija Klopčič |
| 6. Close | Matthew Shaffer |



Interbull Business Meeting

Minutes of Meeting 01

Date/Time: Saturday, 26 August 2023 / 13:30 – 15: 30

Venue: Centre de Congrès de Lyon, France, Room Prestige Gratte Ciel

1. Opening and Welcome - Matthew Shaffer

Matthew Shaffer, Chairman of the Interbull Steering Committee, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and inviting participants to make it an interactive meeting with two-way communication between the presenters and the attendees. The Chair welcomed the new Chief Executive of ICAR Marie Mourot.

2. Adoption of Agenda - Matthew Shaffer

The agenda for the meeting was presented and adopted without comments.

3. Interbull Governance - Matthew Shaffer

a. Governance Review – Matthew Shaffer

The Chair reviewed the structure of Interbull and the different components that make up the organisation, including working groups, task forces as well as the staff at the Interbull Centre.

The Chair also noted that in addition to the usual documents produced each year (Financial Report and Activity Update), this year a paper about business funding models was also distributed to service users.

The Interbull Steering Committee (SC) has continued to work through the Governance review and the majority of the action points have been completed. One of the biggest and most significant are the Steering Committee terms of reference, which were approved by the ICAR board. Within this document, the most important addition is that every country that uses the Interbull services is able to be represented by someone on the SC.

The Chair went through several key achievements in the last year. This included events and publications as well as standardising the publication frequency of Interbull material to add consistency and transparency.

As part of the governance review, the appointment process of the Interbull Technical Committee (ITC) was reviewed. This was especially important in light of two members stepping down from the Committee this year: Esa Mäntysaari and Gerrit Kistemaker. The Chair thanked them for their many years of service to the Interbull community.

Two new members (Andres Legarra, USA, and Jan-Thijs van Kaam, Italy) were selected via an Expression of Interest released earlier this year. ITC members are appointed by the Steering Committee and one Steering Committee member is appointed as chair (currently this role is taken by Gerben de Jong, The Netherlands).

b. Strategic Planning

The 2020-2023 Strategic Plan was outlined, and the Chair noted it had guided the activity of Interbull for the last three years. Interbull is now developing a new strategic plan for the period 2024-2027. Interviews and survey for stakeholders will be released/carried out to collect input. This input would help shape the main goals/activities that the SC should consider for the next three-year period.

c. Steering Committee Updates

The Chair noted that all service users now had the ability to be represented on the Steering Committee based on the new Terms of Reference.

d. Steering Committee Membership

The term for three SC members, Gerben de Jong, Gert Pedersén Aamand and Urs Schnyder, concluded at this meeting. Their respective regions had notified Interbull that all three had been renominated for a new term of four years. No objections were raised by the audience. The above nominations will be submitted to the ICAR board for official approval.

The Technical Committee was also acknowledged for their tremendous contribution to the work of Interbull. The Chair also thanked all the working groups and sub-committees for their contributions to the work of the community.

On behalf of stakeholders, the Chair thanked Andrew Cromie for his contributions to Interbull and Interbeef over the years as he has stepped down from his position as Interbeef chair.

The Chair also thanked all the home organisations that allowed their employees to participate in the work of Interbull and Interbeef.

4. Interbull Centre Management Update - Toine Roozen

The Director of Interbull provided an update on the operational level of Interbull and the Interbull Centre and reminded the group of the relationship between ICAR and SLU. The EU Reference centre and Interbeef WG were also discussed.

The new staff of the Interbull Centre, Anahit Nazari and Simone Hazas, were introduced. The Director also notified the group that Joanna Sendacka had left the Interbull Centre at the end of June.

The financial reports were presented and the breakdown of Interbull Centre income was discussed.

The Director explained some of the main services Interbull Centre has been working on this year.

Regarding data exchange services, GenoEx was presented as an example of a database where data could be added and used for different purposes. There are now many participants who benefit from this service.

The Director also discussed information sharing and how this is achieved in Interbull, including the organisation of meetings, publishing the Interbull Bulletin and other activities such as webinars.

5. Business Funding Model Task Force (BFMTF) – Brian Van Doormaal

The chair of this SC sub-committee thanked the members of the task force who participated in reviewing the fee structure of various Interbull services.

Regarding the MACE fee structure, the chair noted two key issues facing the task force: issues on getting accurate and updated figures for numbers of milk recording cows and the general trend of reducing cow numbers.

The current fee structure was presented for MACE for production traits which represents the starting point for calculating the fee for other traits that are expressed as a percentage of the production fee.

A new metric for calculating the MACE service fee was put together by the BFMTF based on the increase in number of daughters for the sires sent to the MACE evaluation over a period of five (5) years. In the case of new countries joining the MACE evaluation, the number of milk recording

cows would be used for the first years, until the correct amount of years required for looking at the number of daughters would be achieved. This new approach had several advantages including the timely availability of such numbers as well as their easy verification by Interbull Centre staff and participating service users.

The recommendation from the BFMTF was to introduce the new MACE fee system in 2025.

All recommendations from the BFMTF have been approved in principle by the SC but were brought up for discussion at the meeting to seek feedback from stakeholders before being finally approved.

Several questions were asked by service users and discussed by the meeting.

The chair clarified that the BTMTF had not looked at the relation between production and other trait fees yet. The SC can add this to the work of the BFMTF, if desired.

As part of its work, the BFMTF clarified the internal costs for the Interbull Centre to deliver the different services. This will evolve over time and was used to assess the proposed fee structure for various other services provided by Interbull.

With GMACE, all 29 countries in the Holstein breed who participate in MACE get GMACE results. Those submitting data clearly benefit, but receiving entities also benefit.

Only a few countries participate in the Genetic Traits exchange and there is currently no fee associated with it. Interbull is adding the Brown Swiss breed and there is future interest for other breeds. Because of the work associated with this activity, Interbull cannot continue to offer this service for free. Therefore, the BFMTF recommendation was to start applying a fee to the Genetic Traits exchange service of 1000 euro for exchange of information for 1 breed plus 500 euro for each additional breed. The proposal was for the fee to be applied starting from 2024.

Within the service delivery of GenoEx-GDE the BFMTF discussed the concept of a fee structure based on closed service user groups. The idea would be to charge a fixed fee regardless of the number of countries participating in the group. The BFMTF has, however, not yet proposed a amount of such a fixed fee.

6. Discussion – Matthew Shaffer

The Chair thanked the task force for their work done and opened the floor for discussion.

A question was asked about considering expanding the Genetic Traits exchange to also include haplotype results rather than only gene test results. At the moment, given the challenges with calling haplotypes, the service would only be able to be offered for the approved genetic traits.

7. 40 Years of Interbull – Reinhard Reents

This year marked the 40th anniversary of Interbull Centre activities. Former Interbull Chair, Reinhard Reents, presented an overview of those 40 years and went through the major milestones achieved by Interbull over this period.

The Chair thanked Dr Reents for his presentation and reminded the audience of the important journey undertaken by the Interbull Centre over the last 40 years.



Interbull Business Meeting

Minutes of Meeting 02

Date/Time: Sunday, 27 August 2023 / 13:30 – 15: 00

Venue: Centre de Congrès de Lyon, France, Room Prestige Gratte Ciel

8. ICAR and Sustainability – Marie Mourot

Marie Mourot, Chief Executive of ICAR, introduced the sustainability project at ICAR. Sustainability has recently become a major topic, but it has been a topic linked to ICAR since 1951. An ICAR sustainability working group had been formed to look at trait definitions. There are 5 steps that ICAR has identified for sustainability, which are available on the ICAR website. Marie encouraged delegates to look on the ICAR website to look at sustainability. She also invited people to be in contact with the working group, because ICAR would like to hear ideas and work together towards a united goal.

Marie was asked about the composition of the working group being composed of people from only two continents. Marie agreed that this is a point that needs to be brought up and that the working group needs to be international in nature, but also multi-generational as well as having a range of skills and experience. ICAR wants to enable diversity and not be Eurocentric and have a bigger diversity in approach.

9. ITC Update / Introduction to Follow up to the 2023 Interbull Technical Workshop

Valentina Palucci introduced the different focus areas of the working group:

Genomic Reliability Working Group:

There is an update of software for the GEBV-test, with a plan to release it in 2024. Current Test III is losing its statistical power due to the reduction of proven bulls caused by the introduction of genomic selection. The working group would investigate possible ways to improve the current test III methodology, making it fit to the structure of data available.

Validation Working Group:

The ITC has approved recommendations to improve the across country compatibility of female fertility, which will soon be considered by the Steering Committee. Information will then be provided to the Interbull community.

Future MACE Working Group:

Pete Sullivan introduced the work of the Future MACE working group, including group changes and developments and the current work being undertaken. The group has developed model and software changes that can account for genomic pre-selection effects. Results so far have been encouraging.

There was a query from the floor about why the genomic pre-selection Medelian Sampling effect was higher for JER and BSW for production traits.

Pete noted that the plot did not show mean and standard deviations, and the standard deviations are quite large. There could be many reasons and the group has not had the time to explore everything. For BSW in particular, there is a full genomic service at Interbull. Most of the countries from MACE participate.

New Traits Pipeline Working Group:

Ezequiel Nicolazzi gave an overview of the New Traits Pipeline working group with an aim to stimulate discussion. He reviewed the aims and objectives for the working group from 2021 and explained how their decisions were made and the activities undertaken.

An observation was made that for the interest in an international evaluation, the answers were “Low”, “Medium” and “High”. There should also be the response “I’m not sure”. Organisations may have filled in the information but are not sure to say if they are interested in the trait as a service or not.

Toine Roozen commented that the forms are available for review by all users, so it is not only a resource for Interbull Center, but also an opportunity for anyone to see which country is working on what and who they might collaborate with.

Ezequiel also thanked participants for the comments and requested that if there are any questions, or if anything is unclear, then contact the group directly and get help.

10. Other Matters and Open Discussion – Matthew Shaffer

The Chair reminded the attendees of the topics for discussion that were brought up during the first business meeting.

Some of the participants who attended the meetings in Toledo, were expecting ICAR to set up a webinar relating to beef on dairy. There is still some work to be done, information about such a webinar will be made available to the community in the near future.

Regarding SNP-Mace, there are still some questions from the technical committee that need to be addressed. The aim is to start a call for proposals in the near future.

For information purposes, it was noted that there are two patents that potentially could have an impact on our community. One from Agriculture Victoria in Australia and another from SRUC in UK.

The big discussion of today was about the Business Funding Models Task Force recommendations from the presentation yesterday. The Chair asked the attendees for feedback on the proposal from yesterday regarding changes to the fee structure.

It was commented that the proposals made were a good idea and some good work has gone into that.

There were no other comments, and this was taken as an agreement from the Interbull community and delegates with the principles of the funding model recommendations.

The Chair thanked Brian Van Doormaal for the work he and the committee did on reviewing the various fee structures.

The Chair asked the attendees about GMACE and the value to them as service users. There were comments from many countries:

Several comments were made that GMACE figures are of little interest to their markets.

Another delegate remarked that there is an added complexity in that they submit GMACE before they submit their own calculations.

It was noted that GMACE has little use for countries who already have national genomic evaluations. But for countries that do not, it is the only way to have the value of bulls in their own scale. Otherwise they would have to use the value from another country scale. Participants noted that it was important that all the importing countries give their feedback. Right now GMACE is the only platform we have in countries who do not have genomic evaluations.

Although countries will still support GMACE, if there is a fee charged on it, then of course countries would review participation.

The Chair summarized the discussion: GMACE is more important for importing countries without genomic evaluations than for countries with genomic evaluations.

He encouraged delegates to give additional feedback.

Any other business:

A suggestion for the SC that there was a good report on reliability calculations.

The Genetic Traits exchange was also raised again with a request to include haplotypes. It was acknowledged that it will give more conflicts, but also should be emphasized that it gives more value.

The Vice-Chair, Brian Van Doormaal, thanked the Chair for his work and acknowledged the challenges he has faced during his tenure – including the pandemic.

As Chair, Matthew Shaffer thanked the SC, the ITC, Interbull Centre Staff, and the Director in particular. He also thanked the local organizing committee for the effort that went into hosting such an event.

11. Future Events – Maria Klopčič

Maria Klopčič introduced the next Interbull Annual Meeting to be held in Bled, Slovenia, in May 2024, in conjunction with the ICAR Conference. She played a promotional video and gave an overview of the organization of the Interbull-ICAR conference.

12. Close – Matthew Shaffer

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for the open discussion and active participation.