

Open European Championship Meeting
Held 29th September 2012

At Hotel Mars, Kubánské nám. 1333/6 100 05 Praha 10 – Vršovice, The Czech Republic

At 19:15

Attendees:

Denmark - Chairman - Emmy Marie Simonsen
Denmark – Helle Larssen
Belgium – Christine Mattheus
Belgium – Luc Daems
Czech Republic – Barbora Kozová
Czech Republic – Vanda Gregorová
Czech Republic – Andrea Rezková
France - Corinne Médauer
France - Steve Médauer
Germany – Minna Yrjana
Germany – Horst Gehrke
The Netherlands – Esther Niemeijer
The Netherlands - Grietje Wagenaar
The Netherlands – Brigitte v Gestel
Russia - Polina Il'ina
Russia – Tatiana Gette-Kishinevskaya
Sweden – Erika Johansson
Sweden – Memea Mohlin
Azerbaijan – Anastasia Menshikova
Azerbaijan – Irina Pankova
Slovakia – Alexandra Vavrová
Slovakia - Monika Olšovská
Norway - Anja Magnussen Schüller
Norway – Ellen Christensen

1. Rewording of Rule “Entries”

The representatives from Denmark suggest that the wording in the sentence in red below are changed to "If a country's Kennel Club or HTM/Freestyle Organization chooses not to enter a full team". This should have been done last year when the words 'HTM/Freestyle Organization' were added to the paragraph marked with green.

All those at the meeting agreed to accept the amended wording as proposed in the agenda as follows (see underlined words) :

Entries

Individual entries can be submitted by the National FCI recognized Kennel Clubs, a national HTM or Freestyle organisation or by independent handlers.

Team entries can be submitted by the National FCI recognized Kennel Clubs or by a national HTM/freestyle organisation. The FCI recognized Kennel Clubs will get 4 weeks to submit their entries from the opening date before entries are allowed for independent entries and those from HTM/Freestyle organisations.

If there are more than 4 entries + a reserve from one country, the FCI recognized Kennel Clubs' entries should be accepted before any others.

If a Kennel Club does not wish to enter a team, the hosting country can decide which entries they wish to accept.

If a country's Kennel Club or HTM/Freestyle Organization chooses not to enter a full team, entries for the rest of the available spaces up to 4 HTM dog and handler teams and 4 Freestyle dog and handler teams plus a reserve for each section from that country will be accepted from independent handlers.

These independent dog and handler teams will not compete as a team for the team title, but they can qualify for the individual final and compete for the individual title.

2. Extra Heelwork Positions

The Representatives from Switzerland proposed 8 more HTM positions. They felt that by adding the positions (Dog at compass points – facing and reversed around the handler) into routines it would give more variety to a routine and be of more use to different breeds.

General discussion followed:

- The introduction of these positions as HW would then reduce the amount of Freestyle moves.
- The current 10 positions give plenty of variety – with the use of 4 directions and 4 paces plus pivots in either direction – giving 180 variations which was felt more than enough to construct an interesting HTM Routine.
- Not many had used every position during the days competition so still more than enough to teach even at the highest class level.
- Countries new to the division of HTM had thought 10 positions were restrictive however they now realise it is sufficient.
- The FCI would want all countries to abide by the same rules.

The proposal was defeated by a show of hands.

3. Routines on the Internet

The Organizers from the Czech Republic asked that no-one was to upload their videos from the OEC to YouTube. The representatives from Denmark agreed that no-one should video all the performances as the sale of the "Official DVD" would raise the much needed funds for holding the OEC, however, it was felt very unreasonable to stop people uploading their own individual routines.

General discussion followed and it was proposed that at future OEC shows, individual routines are to be allowed to be uploaded to YouTube provided that

- all uploaded routines should also credit the Official DVD Producer
- a link be made from each routine to the Official DVD Producer to aid sales directly.

This proposal was unanimously agreed.

The organizers have later announced that it is now ok to upload your own videos on YouTube, but please only upload your own routines.

4. Information Pathway

Unfortunately, some information changes had not been made easily available for the competitors and team leaders.

The following suggestions were made:

- As information is made available, this must be uploaded to the organiser's website.
- Each Team Leader must be sent an email of confirmation of all information and any changes thereafter.
- As point of easy reference, an additional webpage for all updated information must be created and maintained by the OEC Organising country.

These ideas were proposed and carried unanimously.

5. OEC 2013

The Netherlands are hosting the OEC for 2013, however no details have yet been released. Grietje Wagenaar confirmed that the venue was to be established very soon and that the competition would be held sometime in September or the first 2 weeks in October. Details are to be forthcoming and distributed as soon as possible for participating countries to start Team selection, fund raising, sourcing accommodation and travel and organising leave for travel.

6. Future Years

The OEC is proving to be a very popular International competition with many countries taking part and entries increasing. Furthermore, the meeting received offers from the representatives of different countries wishing to host future championships.

The following hosts were agreed:

2014 – Germany

2015 – Azerbaijan

2016 – Sweden

The meeting thanked these countries for showing their support of the OEC by offering to organise and host these competitions.

Any Other Business

I had to google what AOB was short for... guess if I don't know then others may not know either...

Increasing the number of Team Members

The representative from Belgium suggested that instead of a 4 dog team, this could easily be increased to a 5 dog team giving more income to the organisers. Only the top three scores would still count towards the Team Championship.

The meeting agreed to keep the number in a team to 4 in 2013 as an increase in entries had already been seen from 2012 and the number of routines to be judged could prove difficult to accommodate within the day.

Suggestions for amending the wording of Rule "National Team" should be sent prior to the OEC 2013 by email to Emmy Simonsen for discussion at the next Meeting.

The OEC Logo – produced by The Czech Republic

The head organiser of the OEC 2012, Barbora Kozová, informed the meeting that they would be happy for the logo which had been used throughout their hosting of the OEC 2012, to be adopted as the Official OEC Logo. A template of the OEC Logo would be made available for future hosts of the competition. The colours could be changed to match the host countries flag and the skyline of Prague would be interchangeable with the host countries skyline.

The meeting thanked the Czech Republic for the Logo and agreed that it should be adopted by the OEC.

During this discussion it was asked that all basic paperwork (score sheets etc) and OEC Files be available in one storage area for use by the different hosting countries. Claudia Moser kindly agreed to source a free storage space accessible to all host countries.

Increase in number of judges

The representatives from Russia asked that the number of judges be increased from 3 to 5 and that on completion of scoring a routine the highest and the lowest marks be discounted.

Discussion followed and it was highlighted that this may make a fairer results system, however, it would obviously greatly increase the expenses to be paid for judges, ie flights, accommodation, meals, gifts etc.

It was agreed that the rule could be amended so a country could still invite three judges and all scores to be averaged or they could invite 5 judges and discount the highest and lowest scores before taking an average from the remaining three scores.

(Suggested amendment)

Rule Judging –

Each round in the Open European Championship will be judged by three or five judges.

If 5 judges are used, the highest and lowest score of each routine will be discarded. The judges' points will be added, then divided by 3 – in other words the average points of the three judges will be the final score.

Practice Times at the OEC

Representatives from Denmark proposed that one person should be in charge of the timings for practice as it had become obvious that supervision was required due to people using the ring beyond their allocated times.

The meeting agreed that at future OEC competitions, a supervisor must be provided to maintain fair practice times for all participants.

Adding International Rules to Heelwork

The Belgium repetitive had some questions regarding jumps in HTM routines. A dog can do jumps in a HTM routine, but points will be deducted if the dog land further than 2 meters from the handler.

The Meeting closed at 20:25