

Open European Championship Meeting **Held 28th September 2013**

At Sports Center 'Sporthal de Westermar', Burgemeester Bothenius Lohmanlaan 40 B, 9251 LD, Burgum, Holland.

At 18.10

Attendees:

Denmark – **Chairman** – Emmy Marie Simonsen
Denmark – Helle Larssen
Belgium – Christine Mattheus
Belgium – Luc Daems
Czech Republic – Daniela Šišková
Czech Republic – Šimona Drábková
Finland – Johanna Saariluoma
Finland – Katja Tamminen
France – Corinne Médauer
France – Christiane Gioanni
Germany – Lisa Joachimsky
Germany – Beate Lambrecht
Great Britain – Carol Mortimer
Great Britain – Karen Sykes
Great Britain – Kath Hardman (**Minutes**)
The Netherlands – Esther Niemeijer
The Netherlands – Grietje Wagenaar
Russia – Polina Il'ina
Russia – Olgo Kuzina
Sweden – Sabine Astrom
Slovakia – Alexandra Vavrová
Slovakia – Monika Olšovská
Switzerland – Claudia Moser
Switzerland – Christine Szakacs
Norway – Anne Gry Øyeflaten
Norway – Jessica Karlgren

1. Welcome

Emmy Simonsen opened the meeting by welcoming those representing their countries.

2. Reconsider the current competition format of 2 rounds (Qualification plus Final) - matter raised by Switzerland

The representatives from Switzerland were concerned at the number of routines judges are now expected to judge each day, and with the popularity of the competition growing that number could quite easily exceed current entries.

Discussion followed with many suggestions.

It was felt that the final is a special time for the top ten so most did not want to lose this.

The invitation to judge could let the judges know how many they were expected to judge between breaks so it would be their decision whether to accept those terms.

It was agreed unanimously that the competition should be spread across three days as from 2016 – as follows:

Day One - HTM Team Competition
Day Two - Freestyle Team Competition
Day Three – HTM and Freestyle Finals.

Day three would probably only be a half day giving the organisers time to break down the show and for competitors and supporters to start journeys home.

There would be no day for Practice Sessions – but if possible organisers could give Teams a total 30 minutes in the ring prior to the start each day.

As both Germany (2014) and Azerbaijan (2015) have already accepted to hold the competition under the current format, they would not be expected to change this unless they felt that it would be beneficial for them to do so.

3. & 4. Running Orders – change the system and timing for draws – matter raised by Holland

Holland expressed concern over the amount of work which had to be done by the OEC Organisers in preparation for the actual competition when individual running orders are drawn at the Welcome Meal the night before. It was also felt that some countries had received running orders so close to each other that they were unable to support fellow members.

After lengthy discussion, the following was agreed:

- Draws should be made by the Host Country at the close of entries.
- The draw should be videoed (and not edited) to show fairness.
- Each Country to have two envelopes – one for HTM and one for Freestyle. Four papers are to be placed into each envelope. On each paper will be the name of a Team Member and their dog.
- If there are less than 4 members in a Team, then blank papers will be placed in the envelope. Example: only 2 members in a team – in that envelope will be 2 named papers and two blank papers.

*1. Draw the envelopes for the Running Order of each country for Heelwork To Music. For Example France 1, Germany 2, Japan 3 etc. If there are 12 countries entered there would be running orders in sections as follows: 1 – 12, 13 – 24, 25 – 36, 37 – 48.

2. From the first envelope, select one paper “Running Order 1”, the following paper would be “Running Order 13”, the third paper would be “Running Order 24” and the fourth paper would be “Running Order 37”.

3. Ensure there are always at least 10 dogs between handlers with multiple dogs.

4. Repeat from * for the Freestyle Running Orders.

5. Notify the Countries of their teams’ running orders.

5. Voting at OEC Meetings by non-European Countries - matter raised by Denmark

This was a simple matter where all present voted unanimously that non-European Countries do not have a vote at the OEC Meetings.

6. Future OECs – matter raised by Holland

OEC 2014 Further information was requested but unfortunately there were no representatives from Germany at the meeting. However, Claudia Moser did report that there was a possibility of holding the show in Stuttgart in November.

Concerns were raised regarding the extra cost of providing all vehicles with Winter Tyres to comply with German Law. All season tyres are not acceptable. Claudia said she would take this back to the OEC Organisers in Germany.

OEC 2015 It was reported that the Organisers in Azerbaijan have started planning the event.

OEC 2016 Claudia Moser reported that Austria wanted to put themselves forward to organise this Championship. This will be confirmed as soon as possible, but if not confirmed then Switzerland will host the Championship in 2016. The meeting accepted this decision with thanks.

OEC 2017 Belgium proposed that they will host the OEC as promised last year. The meeting accepted this proposal with thanks.

7. Other Issues

- **Raised by Belgium** - Is it acceptable for team members to change the country they represent?
After lengthy discussion it was agreed that there was no problem if “players” changed teams.
- **Raised by GB** - Regarding dogs exiting the ring whilst excited and highly motivated and then possibly disturbing the next competing dog and handler's focus.
It was suggested that a barrier could be placed to keep the incoming and outgoing teams separate and it was asked that the organisers at each OEC to take this matter into account when setting out the show.
- **Raised by Slovakia** - During any Practice session in the Competition Ring – it was asked if it is fair that only toys be allowed as it was felt this could give an advantage to those dogs motivated by only food?
The following was put to the vote:
During Practice -
Only Toys Allowed
Food and Toy Allowed
No toys or food Allowed

By a small majority, it was agreed to leave the rule as it is, meaning: Only Toys Allowed.
- **Raised by Denmark** - Bitches In Season – it was asked if handlers of bitches in season should be asked to dress their dogs with “pants”. After much discussion, this was felt to be not acceptable and that the bitches should still compete at the end of the competition running order.
- **Raised by Germany** - Requests for No Applause, is this acceptable for dogs competing at the highest level? This matter was discussed but it was agreed

that the dog's welfare should be paramount and if this helped dogs it should be allowed to request no applause.

There were no further issues to be discussed and the Meeting Closed at 19:30