

Open European Championship Meeting

Held 15th November 2014

At relexa Waldhotel Schatten, Stuttgart, Germany

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome

Claudia Moser, (Chair) opened the meeting at 20:45 and welcomed everyone attending.

2. List of Participants at the Meeting - voters indicated:

Netherlands - Esther Niemeijer (Voter) and Tanja leblanc (Voter)

Slovakia - Monika Olsovska (Voter), Adriana Tomekova (Voter) plus Lucia Imbergerova)

Great Britain - Kath Hardman (Minutes), Lesley Neville (Voter), Karen Sykes (Voter), Lucy Creek, Helen Dennis, Nicci Hindson, Christina Oxtoby

Denmark - Sonja Ordell Johanessen (Voter) and Anja Christianson (Voter)

Switzerland -Christine Szakacs(Voter), Claudia Moser (Chair), Petra Funk (Voter)

Hungary -Nora Karlyik (Voter), Fruzsi Wilhelm (Voter)

Germany - Axel Weber (Voter), Lisa Joachimsky (Voter) plus Sandra Roth

Austria - Monika Fritz (Voter), Roya Hollnsteiner (Voter) plus Anna Weissenbacher

Belgium -Luc Daems (Voter) and Cools Greet (Voter)

Finland -Minna Estemaa (Voter)

Czech Republic - Daniela Siskova (Voter), Vanda Gregorova (Voter)

Sweden -Erika Johansson (Voter) and Anita Axelsson (Voter)

Japan - Asako Otsuka, Akemi Itsui, Shinobu Kawasumi, Ritsue Makabe

3. Elections:

3.1. Keeper of the minutes

Kath Hardman was proposed to be the keeper of the minutes - voting was carried unanimously.

3.2. Persons counting votes

Lisa Joachimsky was proposed to be the Vote Counter - voting was carried unanimously.

4. Discussion about the OEC 2015 in Azerbaijan - submitted by Esther Niemeijer - NL:

Esther addressed the meeting giving reasons as to why there is uncertainty about any entries for the competition, listing unrest in neighbouring countries, distance to be travelled etc.

The Chair asked for a show of hands to give an idea of those who would be willing to enter a championship should it be held in Azerbaijan in 2015. There was no one showing interest in competing should it be held in Azerbaijan. Discussion followed with suggestions that the Azerbaijan Organisers should be contacted to enquire if they had made any outlay and to find out if it could possibly be cancelled.

This was followed by a vote on the proposal "Should the OEC in Azerbaijani be cancelled?"

RESULTS OF THE VOTE

Votes

FOR - 19 votes AGAINST - 0 votes ABSTENTIONS - 4

The votes taken, it was agreed that the OEC Azerbaijan could not be cancelled by the meeting but that The Chair should contact them to give them the results of the meeting and ask "should the OEC in Azerbaijan be cancelled."

This was followed by a vote on the proposal that the organisers of the Championship to be held in Azerbaijan should be asked to cancel -

If Yes: Who is informing the organisers of the OEC in Azerbaijan?

As the vote was YES - Claudia Moser acknowledged that as Chair of the OEC Meeting 2014, she would contact the Organisers in Azerbaijan and let them know that no one at the meeting would be attending the OEC 2015 if held in Azerbaijan

If cancelled, who would organize the OEC in 2015?

Discussion followed regarding any possibility of a country organising an event for 2015. The representatives from Sweden expressed an interest and will take this issue back to Sweden after the OEC 2014 to see if this would be viable. They were asked to make their decision known as soon as possible. Any other country able to organise the OEC in 2015 was asked to contact Claudia Moser as soon as possible on their return home.

It was confirmed to the meeting that the OEC in 2016 will be held in Austria and the OEC in 2017 will be held in Belgium.

Neither country is in a position to bring their organisation forward to 2015. Switzerland is looking towards organising the event in 2018 but this is not confirmed.

5. Deductions for Barking - submitted by Emmy Simonsen - DK

Emmy Simonsen was not present at the meeting but her proposal and reasoning was read to the meeting and supported by the Representative from Denmark Sonja Ordell Johannesssen.

As the rules do not state any particular amount to be deducted for a dog which barks in their routine, it was suggested that this should be made much clearer for the judges responsible in giving these penalties.

Discussion followed with three different marks proposed:

Vote: The maximum deduction for barking be from 1-1.5 points or 2 points or 3 points.

RESULTS OF THE VOTE

Deduction to be made of 1 to maximum of 1.5 points 0 votes

Deduction to be made of maximum 2 points 9 votes

Deduction to be made of maximum 3 points 14 votes

It was therefore agreed that a new rule be added as from 2015 as follows:

Other things that will reduce points:

If the dog barks continuously or for the greater part of the routine. If the barking disturbs the presentation or accuracy of the routine.

The deduction for barking should be up to a maximum of 3 points. If a dog barks for 100% of the routine the deduction will be 3 points. If the dog barks for 50% of the routine the deduction will be 1.5 points. Lower deductions should be made for a lesser amount of barking and an occasional bark does not have to have any deduction made.

6. Treats in the Ring on training day - submitted Fruzzi Wilhelm - HU

Discussion followed the introduction of this item by Fruzzi Wilhelm.

Suggestions were made both in favour of allowing food and against the allowing of any food during the practice sessions and a vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Should treats be allowed the ring during the practice sessions?

YES for Food to be allowed 12 votes

AGAINST Food to be allowed 4 votes

Abstentions 7 votes

Following this decision, a proposal was then made to add to the rule that organisers were obliged to clean the ring straight after each practise session. A vote was taken and the results were as follows:

FOR - 23 votes AGAINST - 0 votes

Following the above vote, there will be a new rule to be added from 2015 as follows:

Practice Sessions

Food and/or toys are allowed to be used in the Competition Ring during the Practice Sessions prior to the competition. Organisers are obliged to clean the ring as soon as possible after these sessions before the competition begins.

7. Reforming the judging sheet - submitted by Fruzzi Wilhelm - HU

Fruzzi Wilhelm - HU put forward her arguments about wanting the Scoring Sheet to be made clearer to help judges in the future. She wanted the scoring to be broken down into several points within the 10 points for each section - with suggestions for points to be deducted.

After much discussion it was agreed that each country should put forward a template for a new Score Sheet before the 1st April 2015. This will then be passed to all countries involved via an Email Group to be set up by Petra Funk (CH)

The email group is to be made available to everyone interested in putting forward their ideas. Therefore all ideas will have been seen and discussed in readiness for the OEC Meeting in 2015.

8. Discussions about entry limitations and the problems with increasing numbers of participants

8.1. submitted by Fruzzi Wilhelm - HU

First and foremost, not new starters should be banned from entering. In case of a limit, National Teams should be limited from 4 to 3 members, providing more places for other countries that want to enter. New countries should always get an opportunity to be represented at the OEC.

The practice of this year showed, that those countries that do not have enough starters to create a national team can be left out from the whole event, which I believe is unacceptable in case of a championship of this importance. The role of the OEC should be to encourage countries to participate.

Fruzzi Wilhelm - HU Concern was raised as some Independent Handlers were unable to apply to enter the OEC 2014 as there had been a maximum number of entries to be accepted, therefore when the Independent applications were to be put forward the Teams had already taken all the places available.

Much discussion followed due to the Championship becoming more popular each year and at some venues there would have to be a limit of accepted entries to fit the timescale of each day's competition.

8.2. submitted by Claudia Moser - CH

As this years experience has shown, the OEC is growing bigger and unfortunately, due to several circumstances, the organisers had to limit the number of participants for this years OEC, which ended up with leaving out participants from some countries, especially countries not yet having enough handlers to form a full team.

But by allowing more participants, new problems arise... Dog-Shows often have fixed time schedules, which means the time frames for the competitions can be limited. If an organizer must allow all entries, he might have difficulties to find a venue that is also attractive for spectators.

Also, at some point, there will be a maximum of participants reached, that the judges can still judge fairly, at the moment, they already have to judge 60 routines and I think, we will soon go up to 70 routines and more. Counting 4 minutes per routine, 1 minute for set-up and 2-3 minutes for judging, they already judge 7 hours in total (no breaks yet included).

Having three days of competition will slightly ease the problem, but not for long. Therefore I suggest a new system:

All participants will be split into groups of 15 to 20 teams. The first group will be judged by a first set of 3 judges, the second will be judged by a second set of 3 judges, the third will again be judged by the first set of judges and so on... This would enable to have more participants as the judges would have their breaks, while the competition could continue at the same time. Also, the breaks would be longer than only 15-20 minutes which will ensure that the judges can remain concentrated until the end.

The Finalist would then be selected from these groups, for example by the following system:

From each group (15-20 teams) the first 2 participants will directly reach the Final.

After that, another 4 teams will be selected by the highest points from all groups together.

Vote:

1. Can an organizer of the OEC limit the number of participants?

If yes: Only in advance of the competition?

If yes: What would be the limit per day?

If no this would lead to:

2. Do the teams have to be limited to 3 handlers plus one reserve per division and country?

If No:

3. Should the new system (2 sets of judges, judging separate groups) be applied?

Both 8.1 and 8.2 were discussed to find a solution to both the problem of new Countries with Independent handlers being unable to apply due to the competition being full and to the second idea of a new judging system to allow more routines to be judged each day.

It was suggested that the organiser could also mix Freestyle and HTM with alternating groups of 15 - 20 handlers, to ensure that the judges would get enough breaks but also allow more teams in the competition as there would not be the need of breaks in the competition, as only the judges would change after each group.

If so, the organiser would work with two sets of 3 judges, and one set of judges would judge all HTM-routines, the other set all FS-routines

After much discussion, it was proposed that from 2016 when the competition is a three day event, Official Teams would compete HTM on one day, Freestyle one day and the Independent dog/handler teams will then compete in HTM or Freestyle during the morning of Day Three followed by the Individual Finals.

A vote was taken as follows:

FOR 21 AGAINST 2

Therefore the Rule will now read:

The OEC is a 3 day event. The HTM team championship will be held on one day, the Freestyle team championship will be held on one day. On the last day of the

Championships, the Independent handlers in HTM or Freestyle will compete during the morning followed by the individual finals for both sections

9. Running orders publication – supplied by Kath Hardman – UK

Team GB propose a additional rule to be added to 'Running Orders'

The draw of the Running Orders will be made public at least 2 weeks prior to the start date of the competition.

Vote: Should the running orders be published latest 2 weeks prior to the competition?

A vote was taken FOR 23 votes AGAINST 0 votes

New rule to be added from 2015:

Running Orders

6. The draw of the Running Orders will be made public at least 2 weeks prior to the start date of the competition.

10. Drawing the running order for the Individual Finals – supplied by Kath Hardman – UK

'The Individual Final' A random draw will be made at the conclusion of both the Team HTM and Freestyle Championships for the running order of the Top Ten Dog and Handler Teams who have qualified for the Individual Final.

Vote: Should the running order for the finals be drawn on the day directly after the Qualification round?

A vote was taken FOR 23 votes AGAINST 0 votes

An amendment to the rule regarding The Individual Final will be implemented from 2015.

The Individual Final

The ten dog and handler teams that have acquired the highest score in each of the disciplines qualify for the Individual Finals (10 Heelwork to Music and 10 Freestyle).

A random draw will be made at the conclusion of both the Team HTM and Freestyle Championships for the running order of the Top Ten Dog and Handler Teams

11. OEC 2018 – supplied by Petra Funk – CH

Switzerland would like to candidate for the OEC 2018.

Vote: Should the OEC 2018 go to Switzerland?

The results of the Vote as follows:

FOR 23 votes AGAINST 0 votes

12. Collecting further proposals from the participants on the day

- **Esther Niemeijer – NL** suggested that the entry fee for the OEC should be limited however after discussion it was decided that the competition

organisers had to make that decision to ensure they could cover their costs.

- **A proposal** was received from many at the meeting regarding Bitches in Season and their practice sessions as this year they had not been allowed to practice on the Friday but were allowed to practice shortly before competing.

The proposal was that Bitches in season could take part during the practice sessions but only if they were wearing "protective pants".

A vote was taken and the result was as follows:

FOR 17 votes AGAINST 3 votes ABSTENTIONS 3

Following on from the above vote, it was then proposed by the floor that Bitches in Season should only compete wearing protective pants.

A vote was taken and the result was as follows:

FOR 10 votes AGAINST 11 votes Abstentions 2

Therefore bitches in season will still compete last on the competition day.

Added to General Rules

- In countries where Bitches in Season are allowed to compete, they will be moved at the end of the running order. They do not have to wear protective pants in competition but must wear these during practice sessions.

13. End of the Meeting

Claudia Moser then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 23:00