

January 21, 2010 AWDF Teleconference minutes

Meeting began @ 8:10pm CST

In attendance:

President - Albert Govednik Vice President. - Lyle Roetemeyer late on the call

Treasurer- Sean O'Kane absent Secretary - Michelle Testa

Executive Directors Vera Reeves, Glenn Stephenson, Dyan Harper

Club Delegates:

USBA - Mark Chase FedAB – Paige Shriver John Bochenek & Pres. Rhonda Clark

UDC – Wendy Schmidt, May Jacobson

USA – Craig Grogh LV/DVG Amer. - Carole Patterson

WRSF - Vera Reeves BRT – Patty Bartley

USMRA – Augusta Farley, Ann Putegnat

AWMA – Warren Jones NAWATA – Marcia Govednik

WPBTCA – Annetta Cheek, Ron Marshall

AHNA – ABSENT SACCI – ABSENT NARA – ABSENT USRC – ABSENT NAWBA – ABSENT

Also on the call

AWDF FCI Team selection committee chairperson Bill Bimrose

Working Dutch Shepherd Association – Les Flores

National Working Dog Association – Chris Thompson, Richard Shook & Keith O'Sullivan

Presidents Report-

AI states the FCI meeting went very well. There was discussion of the rule changes for 2011

To continue to become more standardized and get everyone on the same page; beginning 2011 there will be only IPO as the listed/ attained titles for our sport VPG & SchH will no longer be an accepted term/ venue. The Germans have agreed to the process of a single rule book. America has been asked to follow suit as well.

There were some rule changes on what clearly defines a disqualification and insufficient in the protection phase. Craig Grogh interjected stating that a bite that is to be marked as a DQ has to be "a complete contact bite" any place other than the sleeve.

AI will email a complete report.

AI states that America was asked quite a bit of questions and the FCI Working Commission again stated that they truly prefer to work with the AWDF.

Augusta F. asked if there was any mention of Mondioring becoming universal and AI replied no.

He continued by stating that Mondioring representatives were scheduled to do a presentation at the event and did not show up.

Patty Bartley asked if the removal of the courage test was discussed and AI replied not that he was aware of it.

The important objective/ mission at the meeting was getting the SV on the same page with the FCI. AI representing the AWDF was asked to attend an early meeting with SV rep Mr. Günter Diegal, and FCI rules committee FCI pres. Mr Frans Jansen, FCI VP Mr. Wilfried Schaepermeier. and Mr. Robert Marksschläger to discuss changes. .

Warren Jones asked if the SV & WUSV will all be changing and AI replied yes. IPO will now be the correct terminology / name of our sport.

Terminology changes - "stick hits" will now be called "pressure phase".

The Schutzhund V will be added and all phases will be allowed to be attained as individual certificates. Example- OB 1,2,3 TR 1,2,3 PRO 1,2,3

Carole Patterson states that DVG is already applying a similar situation with these individual certificates.

FCI FH team for 2010 - AL Govednik and Andres Arportela
Al suggests that we really need to come up with an IPO FH Championship event

Vice President report – no report

Treasurer Report - Sean emailed letting the E board know he was called in unexpectedly to work. He is working on year end reports now and taxes and the budget will be put out on email this week to review and vote on by email.

Secretary's report – Michelle asks that the Sept. minutes be approved for record – Patty Bartley made the motion to accept the Sept. minutes and May Jacobson seconded the motion; no one was opposed.

The September minutes are entered in to record.

OLD BUSINESS

FCI Team qualifications and regulations

Bill Bimrose emailed the new AWDF FCI IPO qualifying regulations to the board and asks that they be reviewed; any questions to contact him.

2010 AWDF Championship update – Due to Sean's absence there was no update at this time. Al G. did hand deliver the letters of request to judges Mr. Robert Marksschläger and Mr. Clemente Grosse who will be replacing Frans Jansen.

AWDF logo copyright - Due to Sean's absence there was no update at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Al was asked to do a Schutzhund demonstration at the Omaha outdoor show. It went very well and people were receptive. A retrieving club and the Service Dogs of America both expressed interest and inquired about AWDF membership. Also there has been expressed interest from an Agility group.

Ann.P. asked if the SDA is in process to bring KNPV in to America

Warren J. states that there are a number of non AKC agility organizations and we should proceed slowly and well informed. AWMA is presently trying to send an agility team to Europe. Annetta C. states that DVG and UKC both have this sport in their organizations.

USMRA Augusta asks the board if USMRA can assist the Canadian Ring Assoc. to get up and going. The Canadian Ring Assoc. had helped the USMRA in the past assisting them in building their organization. USMRA would like to reciprocate. Glenn S. asks for clarification on assistance and how long. Ann P. replied that it would be a temporary situation no more than 1 year and USMRA does not want to go against AWDF regulations.

There was a question of using AWDF scorebooks for this club and a suggestion was made to have the Canadians make their own books by using the AWDF score book as a template.

Vera R. advises to proceed with caution that we are more visible to the FCI and the FCI does not support multi national organizations.

The suggestion was made to present the facts to the FCI working Commission and AI states that he will contact FCI President Mr. Jansen to see if there could be an exception. Augusta and Ann P. thanked AI for the assistance.

Working Dutch Shepherd Association acceptance in to AWDF

Les Flores spoke on behalf of the WDSA (www.workingdutchshepherd.org)

The Breed has been in existence since 1898 but is not recognized by the AKC

The club is new and steadily growing. Les continued; he sees AWDF as a beneficial asset to the WDSA for NHC (Netherland Dutch Shepherd Organization/ registry which is FCI recognized) acceptance.

Ron Marshall asked how they will handle pedigree registration here in America.

Les responded that the registry will be with the NHC only and strictly enforced. WDSA will not be issuing pedigree registrations and any obscure pedigrees that are not officially from the NHC will not be accepted.

AI G. motions for a vote on the WDSA and Glenn S, seconded the motion

President AI Govednik YES

VP Lyle Roetemeyer YES

Treasurer Sean O'Kane ABSENT

Secretary Michelle Testa YES

DAL Glenn Stephenson YES

DAL Dyan Harper YES

DAL Vera Reeves YES

USBA YES

FedAB YES

UDC – YES

USA – YES

LV/DVG Amer. - YES

WRSF - YES

USMRA – YES

AWMA – YES

NAWATA – YES

WPBTCA – YES

USRC – ABSENT

NAWBA – ABSENT

AHNA – ABSENT

WBRTA – (guest no vote)

SACCI – ABSENT (guest no vote)

NARA – ABSENT (guest no vote)

The Working Dutch Shepherd Association is voted in to guest status in the AWDF

Open discussion on consideration of a potential application from the National Working Dog Association (www.nwdak9.com) in to the AWDF

AI G. gives the delegates an introduction of the NWDA.

Chris Thompson of NWDA gave a brief overview of the club what it has to offer and its membership. NWDA is a group of working dog enthusiasts with 200 + members and have titled

134 dogs from 18 different breeds. The tests offered for dog handler teams are a meshed combo of Schutzhund and Ring Sport.

Many questions were raised.

Augusta F. (USMRA) asks how their rules for their type of sport will be moved towards the new process of Europe and America being asked to have one international sport rule.

Chris answered that they are a mesh of a number of different protection sports.

Annetta C. (WPBTA) states with the international situation strongly moving for uniformity in protection sport this type of situation moves totally away from what the international organizations are asking of member countries

Vera Reeves (WRSF) is concerned that this addition will be detrimental with all the negatives and people who want to cease protection work and these titles that are just cobbled together are not FCI recognized.

Federation American Bull Dog submitted a list of concerns in an email post to the AWDF Delegates and Executive board to review in regards to NWDA interest in being part of AWDF.

FedAB noted that NWDA was first formed as an "American Bull Dog Club" which had been in existence for 1 year until as recently as 3 months ago changing the organization over to a "sport club". FedAB also made point that NWDA administers Breed Suitability Tests for American Bull Dogs which is not in line with a sport club organization. The NWDA titles are not nationally or internationally recognized.

Ron Marshall feels that this may be a good addition as it allows for cross training and develop club growth

Rhonda C. and Paige S. asked Ron Marshall about being listed as an approved Decoy for NWDA. Ron replied that he had been asked to take part.

Ann P. (USMRA) asked about PSA and Chris T. responded yes they do American Protection Dog Sport.

Michelle T. and Dyan Harper both stated that they read NWDA hosts breed suitability tests and both stated sport organizations do not host BST; such tests are for breed clubs only.

Chris Thompson states that they were approached to host the American Bull Dog BST by the NKC (National Kennel Club) and have also been approached by 2 other breed clubs as well for BST testing. Michelle asked which breed clubs: Chris responded the Donovan Pincher and 1 other club that he couldn't remember at that moment.

Glenn S. Acknowledged the accomplishments of such a very young association and complimented its membership size. He continued stating that he would not recommend NWDA for membership at this time. The programs need to be more solid in their content speaking in regard to the criteria for becoming a Judge and a decoy. From reviewing the information provided Glenn continued stating there are many things that need to be corrected before NWDA can apply for AWDF membership John Bochenek echoed Glenn's sentiment and suggestions. He also was concerned with the NWDA relations to AWDF may make things very unclear for the AWDF in regards to national and international relations and regulations as the sport moves forward to a more uniform venue.

Carole Patterson (LV/DVG Amer.) - stated she hadn't had time to review all the information and would like to know more about the dog / handler teams in terms of earning titles. With all the BSL out there she would like to see a broad spectrum of titles beyond the NWDA offered protection titles.

Michelle stated that NWDA does have a website address and it is in the agenda listing. Michelle also was asked to forward the information to the delegates from NWDA that was sent in regards to becoming a qualified judge and approved decoy.

Al G. asked Chris T. if NWDA would be willing to model their programs using DVG or USA as templates.

Paige S. asked if the NWDA was to apply for AWDF membership would they omit the BST.

Chris T.(NWDA). responded the NWDA would look in to it when the time came.

Rhonda C. made the suggestion that it may be in the best interest to have a clear definition of what is a Breed club and what is a sport club.

Lyle R. was very supportive of NWDA stating that they have a long list of very respectable people in the sport belonging to this organization. He continued commenting on the fact that in the future there will be other sport clubs knocking at the AWDF's door and suggested forming a committee to develop rules and guidelines for sport club membership.

Michelle wanted to remind the executive board and delegates that the discussion of NWDA was an open discussion and not in any way an application/ vote for this association to become a member of AWDF.

Ron Marshall asked if the NWDA would be interested in doing a demo at the 2010 AWDF Championship. Chris T stated they could and also invited everyone to a show in April that NWDA will be doing

Paige S. asked about this event and if it was an American Bull Dog show. Chris stated that the NWDA is holding an event in conjunction with an American Bull Dog show.

Annetta C. asks for club clarification and John B. referred to the AWDF C&B/L Article III and VIII Article III. Membership in the Association.

A. There are two types of membership in the organization.

a. Individual members, who are individuals and members in good standing of a Club Member as that term is defined in Subsection 2 of this Article III. The rights, privileges and authority of any individual member may be exercised only through that member's membership in a Member Club, except where otherwise provided in these by-laws.

b. Multi-breed clubs based in the United States whose purpose is to support and advance a specific service or sport program, including obedience, VPG, IPO, ring sport, law enforcement and military, search and rescue, herding, agility, and hunting. Multi-breed clubs must be less than one half of total AWDF club memberships.

A. Each member club must:

- a. Be national in scope.
- b. Subscribe to our purposes and objectives as stated in this document.
- c. Foster a strong and positive public image to support our objectives.
- d. Maintain a strong and active stance opposing abusive practices such as profit-motivated indiscriminate breeding, dog fighting, and illegal gambling on canine sporting events.

- e. Implement rules to ensure that commercial considerations do not affect decisions of judges of club events.
 - f. Accept as members all enthusiasts of good character and interest in supporting the breed or activity without regard to sex, race, or national origin.
 - g. Advocate and maintain a consistently high level of sportsmanship in all its activities.
- B. Membership application and acceptance
- a. Clubs wanting to join the AWDF must apply to the Secretary in writing. The application must be in the format designated by the AWDF.
 - b. Applicants must include a check for the first year's dues to the AWDF with the application. The Secretary advises the Executive Committee of the application and, at the Executive Committee's direction, arranges meetings or requests further written information supporting the application.
 - c. Guest Status - Clubs that do not meet the requirements for regular membership in AWDF may be granted Guest Status membership. Guest clubs must pay dues and be afforded all rights and obligations of AWDF membership except they may not vote and members of guest clubs may not hold office.
 - d. Voting for regular or guest status may occur at an AWDF general board meeting or electronically. Applications for regular or guest status must be approved by at least two-thirds of the member clubs.
- C. Member clubs may affiliate with international associations.
- a. If the rules and regulations of the AWDF and those of an international affiliation conflict, the member club must resolve the conflict immediately by withdrawing from either the other organization or from the AWDF.
 - b. The Executive Committee may grant a time extension, not to exceed one year, to allow the member club to resolve the conflict or poll its members on what action to take.

Article VIII. Regulating and Promoting Competitive Events.

- A. The AWDF promotes and regulates competitive working trial events.
- B. The AWDF may establish and enforce rules of conduct and procedures for sporting and conformation events and for registration. To the extent possible, these rules should prevent commercial considerations from affecting decisions of judges of AWDF events.
- C. Entries to AWDF-sponsored events must be submitted through the member clubs. By submitting an entry for an individual member, member clubs affirm that the individual is in good standing with their club and that the individual's dog meets all the qualifications of the member club.
- D. In general, AWDF and its member clubs may promote and conduct all sport systems recognized by the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI).
- E. The AWDF may authorize other appropriate competitive systems or variations in the rules and procedures necessary because of American conditions.
- F. The AWDF and its member clubs recognize titles awarded under FCI rules conducted by FCI recognized entities internationally and by member clubs in the United States.
- G. The AWDF maintains and promotes an educational program open to and, as specified by the Board, required of all active judges, apprentices, and applicants.

Scorebook recognition - Ron Marshall

Ron Marshall is concerned with the submission of scorebooks at trials by handlers who do not belong to the organization of which the scorebook was assigned. For example: one can not go to a DVG trial with a DVG membership card and a USA score book for the dog (or vise-versa). To show the dog with the USA scorebook, then one has to have a current USA membership card.

A discussion ensued and Al G. made the motion to table the topic until the next conference call

Glenn S. seconded the motion

No one was opposed.

Lyle Roetemeyer made the motion to adjourn and Craig G seconded

Meeting was adjourned @10:05pm CST