

February 4, 2008 Teleconference minutes

Attendance

Pres. Al Govednik , VP: Lyle Roetemeyer, Treasurer: Sean O’Kane, Secretary: Michelle Testa
Executive Committee Delegates: Vera Reeves, Glenn Stephenson, Gary Patterson

Clubs Present: 11 Club Absent: USRC, UDC Total delegates: 14

Other attendees: Pam & Gary Hanrahan- AWDF Championship representative
Erik Storm- Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano

Time 8:10 PM CST

Presidents Report

President Al Govednik opened the meeting with positive word on the clubs forward progress considering the turn over it has had. He complimented the new appointees and made mention that he feels these people have really worked hard at getting us organized again.

He is pleased with the positive direction and hopes for more forward progress.

Al G stated that due to unforeseen circumstances he will not be able to attend the 2008 Championship and annual meeting.

There are now in place the BOI and nomination committees

BOI: Nia Cotrell, Ronald Marshall & Carole Patterson

Nomination Committee George Markos, Bill Bimrose, & Maugh Vail

The FAST club will not be renewing their membership this year.

The FCI FH World CH team to be sent to Slovakia in April will be

Daniel Trevino with Ghandi v. Kessler Kruez

Al Govednik with Hex Aites Bohemia

Andres Arportella agreed to sponsor the FCI team

Bill Cambell will be outfitting the FCI team

The ADWF E board and Delegates would like to thank both Andres and Bill for this thoughtful donation and assistance.

Vice President’s report - none

Secretary’s report:

The minutes to the Dec 7, 2007 teleconference were reviewed

Vera Reeves motioned to accept the minutes

Ann Camper (AWMA) 2nd

Accepted

Treasurers Report

Sean has put together a new budget format that will be easier to work with. Due to a couple of outstanding promissory notes the budget at this point is not complete, Sean will email the budget report as it stands to all delegates for review and states this will be complete for future progress by Dec 1, 2008.

Membership Dues

As of this teleconference WRSF, DVG America & Hovawart Clubs are unpaid.

Carole Patterson (DVG America) states that because of the type of membership renewal they have, the club has just received the total # of members in the organization and will be sending in the correct payment ASAP without the AWDF form. Sean responded by letting Carole know he would fill out the AWDF form once he receives payment and send a copy back to her for review.

Barbara Baker of the Hovawart Club stated that there is a merger in the works of the 2 Hovawart clubs and in the next day or so she should have a final count of members for dues payment. She mentioned that she did not have the proper AWDF dues form. Michelle replied that she will forward Barbara's email addy to Sean for him to send the form to her.

Barbara had to leave the TC to attend the Hovawart meeting in regards to the merging clubs. We wished her luck and she signed off at 8:40 pm CST

There was no mention by the WRSF.

Sean continues, stating \$2000.00 in for trophy donations. Carole Patterson stated that the DVG America will be sending \$100.00 to the general fund for trophies

There has been a communication section added to the budget. This will cover expenses for international calls to Europe for AWDF business with the FCI clubs.

Carole Patterson feels this is very important to keep up our strong ties with the European organizations that these calls can become lengthy in time and very costly.

Al Govednik has spent over \$300.00 in international calls which should be reimbursed

Carole Patterson motions that this expense should be reimbursed to Al

Michelle 2nd the motion

Motion passed

Old Business

AWDF Championship update by Pam Hanrahan

Johannes Grewe will be replacing Al Govednik as the judge for tracking

Pam let everyone know things were on schedule and that she will be finalizing tracking fields for the FH CH this week.

The new city governor is looking forward to having the event. It will be a first large dog event for him.

The host hotel is secure with plenty of others available for the overflow

Michelle Testa mentioned to Pam H. that Bobbie Wilson is available to be trial secretary and Pam added that Kelly and Pam from the USA office have also agreed to the position as well.

Rhonda Moses of the Bull dog club asked about type of blinds and direction of the search

Pam answered that the blinds are portable and it will be a right search

Pam said she will notify Judy the web master with all the updates as they come together

Practice times will most likely be sign up at the field AM obedience PM protection.

Blocking times for groups and teams is allowed. Time allowed is 5 minutes per person.

Pam is requesting volunteers! She will be needing help with all sorts of things and asks the delegates to post to their memberships this request.

Concessions will be run by the city. A clean up crew will be needed for stadium and hotels.

Al G. requests that both hosting clubs come together for a conference call.

Rhonda Moses asked about what constitutes a "team" at the Championship.

Al G. replied that the team has to have an IPO3 and that 2 IPO1's and An IPO3 can qualify as a team.

AWDF Scorebooks

At the annual meeting in March 2007 it was voted that the AWDF score book would be required at all AWDF Championships beginning in 2008. Due to unforeseen circumstances this information was not put out to the membership.

Vera Reeves (WRSF), Glenn Stephenson, Ann Camper (AWMA), Augusta Farley (USMA) & Michelle Testa all spoke against requiring the scorebooks at such a late date and suggested this motion be postponed for this yr and move the implementation to 2009.

There was a brief discussion having the score book be the only scorebook of the AWDF membership. Augusta F motioned to move the requirement of AWDF scorebooks from the 2008 CH to be implemented in 2009

Glenn S. 2nd

Accepted

2009 all competitors will be required to submit an AWDF score book for the AWDF Championship.

IRO FCI search and rescue program review – Vera Reeves

Vera will be attending the meeting in March.

She feels this program should be added to titles offered by the AWDF

For implementation and success it will be important that people are brought in to judge and instruct people on the elements of the tests.

She will email the delegate body the overview of the program of the IRO

There is a suitability test as well as 12 titles to attain in IRO

Al G discussed how much further along we are to attain acceptance for this program to be implemented in the AWDF

There was discussion as to how adding this program will open up our organization to other clubs and increase our overall club membership.

Carole Patterson stated that DVG America already hosts the RH as a title and Vera replied that this is super as it already proves our organization willingness to host this type of program

Gary Patterson (DVG America) asked about implementation when and how.

There was discussion with the delegates in full support of the S& R program titles that it would be best to wait until Vera comes back with more information before the AWDF begins process of implementation.

Vera will give a full report at the Annual meeting in Alabama

Michelle Testa motioned to table the discussion knowing the delegates are in full support of the program until Vera is back from the meeting with information needed

Augusta 2nd's

Approved

AWDF Working Titles and Regulations

Gary Patterson began the discussion with an over view.

The program has been completed for several yrs now and has received many positive responses and comments. He would like to see the program begin

Augusta Farley stated that it is totally a SchH program, leaves Mondio out on the sideline and does not encompass all the other sports under the AWDF umbrella.

Augusta would like to see pieces from the other sports added to the program

Gary P stated that if Augusta would like to add other sports then please come up with program rules and to present to the board. He would be in full support of a program.

George Markos (USBA), Gary P., Al G. all stated that the program was put together to capture the original reason for SchH.

George M. would like to see eventually tactical items added but this program is at this point an act of preservation.

Al G stated that the AWDF working title program is by all means is not etched in stone and can be added to, tweaked and portions removed if need be but what is most important that the program begins so that the AWDF can see if it is going to have support and success.

Vera Reeves mentioned that it is very important for America to develop their own titles. Countries in Europe all have their own titles Germany, Italy, Holland etc, we need to have our own program that signifies America and represents what we feel is the test of defining the working dog.

Al G mentioned that the IPOV has been accepted in 5 countries in 3 yrs. This is not really what AWDF wants to see as its defining title here for the working dog. AWDF is in a unique situation because we are totally devoted to the working breeds and their course in the future. In most countries the working clubs are not in charge of their destiny, as organizations in Europe continue to soften its rules & requirements in testing the working breeds. By having the AWDF program in place we can secure what is a solid test for working dogs here in America

Augusta F. and Glenn S. brought up the option of a change in the name of the titles to something other than “working”. Gary P. stated that he had asked for suggestions in regards to naming the program way back in the early stages of development and received little response from the delegates. His only other suggestion was the word “utility” Augusta wanted the word “sport” used and there was a lot of disagreement from the delegates. “AWDF Working Title” will remain the name

It was stated that it is important to maintain focus on getting the program out there and adding supplemental titles can be done as we go in a smooth process as the program develops.

Lyle R discussed the need to maintain the total working dog. He reiterated that many people in the past were angry when they found out that there was discussion of yet another softening of the rules in Europe.

With the aggressive movement of BSL in the USA we have a real opportunity with our program to keep the temperaments and quality that is needed for the proper breeding of all working dogs.

George M. asked about parallel in titling can a SchH 3 compete at the AWDF level 3.

The answer was no.

It is important to note that the AWDF titles are an independent system.

Gary Patterson states that the future is uncertain and hopes that the AWDF program will take off in 3-5 yrs. Again it is important to have our own program in place. He again stated that if Augusta has some one to put together a Mondio program for the AWDF he would support that.

Vera stated that Mondio and SchH aren't very compatible and the disciplines are quite separate but it doesn't keep us from adding such programs

There was motion by Vera to implement the program

Michelle T and Gary P 2nd it and then the discussion became quite spirited.

There were many reasons for the development of the program. Gary Patterson said that the actual sport of Schutzhund has become homogenized; the Judging and point systems don't really define the dog's temperament for breeding any more.

Vera Reeves stated that working with the FCI she knows that the FCI wants America to have its own titles.

Al G asked for a compromise and requested the delegates to vote

10 yes

2 no

1 abstain

3 absent the AWDF working program will be implemented

Society in America for Cane Corso Italiano - Erik Storm

Due to the lengthy discussion on the previous topic Erik had to leave early in the meeting. The subject of accepting this breed into the AWDF will be discussed at the next conference in 2 weeks

By- laws changes

Section IV- F

Al G stated that the wording for the annual meeting date needs to be revised. The way it is stated it (“meeting must be held by March 31st”) actually leaves the board to be forced to have the General meeting not in conjunction with the AWDF CH if the dates of the CH don’t coincide with the above requirement in the by laws. The hosting clubs in any given region in America should have room for date flexibility when bidding to host the Championship. The wording should be changed to: “The General Board has an annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the AWDF Championship event.”

Section IV- G: have been brought up for re-evaluation and discussion

Allowing participation by phone for E board and delegates at the Annual meeting

Augusta F. stated it would be a good idea mentioning that there are situations that truly inhibit people from attending every yr.

Al G stated he would prefer to hear reports directly from people that are assigned to give them than that same report given by someone else. It would also assist in getting proper information and questions answered in a timely manner.

Glenn S. opposes this change as in his experience it has not worked. It can be difficult to put together due to lack of access to types of conference call systems in hotels.

Al asked that we all think about it and it will be brought for a vote at the annual meeting

AKC WDS program

Al G has been asked what the AWDF position is in regards to the AKC program

He wants the delegates to make a unified decision on the position to be held.

Lyle R. began stating that the AWDF shouldn’t recognize titles from Judges in organizations that have not completed a Judge’s certification program.

Carole Patterson (DVG America) states they have received direction from Germany and DVG will not be recognizing titles attained in the AKC program

Vera Reeves stated that the AKC is a pilot program and should we like to keep our strong FCI ties we should not recognize the AKC program titles or scorebooks

The motion was made by Gary Patterson

2nd by Vera Reeves

Accepted The AWDF will not recognize the AKC WDS program

Elections

The Nomination Committee: George Markos, Bill Bimrose, & Maugh Vail

Bill Bimrose asks that all delegates /member clubs have 30 days to send in any resumes of interested parties.

Positions up for re election:

President, Treasurer, 2 delegates, the FCI Team Selection Committee

There is a question as to whether the BOI committee is up for re election (in Article 7-A-b it is on an even yr).

By following the by-laws this committee is up for re election this year

AL Govednik in closing

Next conference call will be on February 18 (2 weeks)

Sean O will mail out the current finances

The Cane Corso Club will be slated as the first topic on the Agenda at that time.

Michelle T. motioned to adjourn

Vera Reeves 2nd

Approved

Meeting adjourned 10:19 CST
