

Annual general meeting of Dogdance International e.V. 2016

Protocol

TOP 1: Address of welcome and opening of the meeting on July 2nd at 3:17pm through first chairman Mr Axel Weber at Lindenstrasse 2 in 23820 Pronstorf, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

Axel Weber informs, that Rainer Birkmeyer and Claudia Moser are absent with valid excuse.

Attendant are 15 members entitled to vote and one guest (Table of attendances is attached in the appendix).

Axel Weber is entitled chairman of the meeting.

Katharina Henf is entitled keeper of the minutes.

Jana Lorenz is entitled vote counter.

TOP 2: It has been ascertained that invitations to the general meeting got distributed in due time, and therefore the meeting constitutes a quorum.

TOP 3: **Annual report** from the executive board.

Axel Weber, first chairman

1) Cooperation with VDH:

Idea: Collaboration with VDH, but DDI e.V. shall stay an independent association. Contact person at VDH used to be Christa Bremer. But later on mail and telephone correspondence with Mr Bartscherer: he stated that a cooperation between VDH and DDI e.V. is not possible, because the former operates nationally while the later is operating internationally. Apart from that, VDH has no further informations relating to DDI e.V.

Idea Axel: Parallel association? But that's no alternative as well.

BUT: the F.C.I. Dogdance Committee got established - ten judges under Finnish presidency. They are elaborating regulations (Marianne Rentsch is involved in this process amongst others).

Last year Axel made an effort for a collaboration on the basis of the existence of the F.C.I. Committee, but as well due to the fact that the World Dog Show 2017 takes place in Leipzig. But if a dogdance competition will take place at the WDS is not known by now.

As a result of the first failures, Axel is proposing to wait and observe the continuing process of the F.C.I. Commission.

2) Homepage was temporarily not accessible.

All contents could be restored through detours, but this incident has proved once again the inevitability to overview the homepage. This work is well under way.

- ∞ Mainpages in english and german.
- ∞ Subpages of the particular countries.

The various functions remain preserved.

Carmen Schmid remains responsible for the facebook page of DDI e.V.

1) Overall the sponsoring worked well last year, thanks a lot to Animonda. For the future we want to improve the agreements and allocations of specific tournaments. Axel will take care of this.

2) Topic „training of judges“ by Claudia Moser, presented by Axel Weber: Representatives of judiciary are responsible for the education of new judges: Carmen Heritier and Katharina Henf in Germany, Daniela Siskowa in the Czech Republic. In Austria a representative will have to be announced.

Responsible for advanced training of judges is furthermore Claudia Moser.

3) As of 25 June 2016 DDI e.V. has 327 members (last year 273), so the number of members has grown.

Christine Szakacs, vice chairwoman

Christine states:

„Dear friends of dogdance,
since the beginning of 2016 I've been at six tournaments in Switzerland, Germany and Italy. Five times I was judging, once I accompanied someone in the function of a coach.

First of all, I want to highlight a very important aspect:

The organizers of every single tournament. Today our thanks and applause is directed towards them.

Well, there might have been a few small mistakes; people who organized their first tournament, tournaments that took place in new countries and so on. But still, each tournament was a success, no matter if fun tournament, show of training or mixed tournament with official as well as fun classes.

The organizers spare no effort; they guarantee each team the best possible conditions, they look for sponsors and they prepare everything with a lot of passion.“

HTM

Our new subject has proved of value: more and more enthusiastic dogdancers join the classes 1 and 2, and soon there will be more dogdancers in class 3 as well.

By the use of HTM training the quality in Freestyle also improved.

It's obvious that many skilled dogdancers with HTM experience present themselves in classes 1 or 2, who also gained plenty of experience through Freestyle. It came into my attention that, for example in a tournament, it was obvious, that members of class 1 HTM showed a much higher standard than those of class 1 Freestyle.

Touching the dogs

Through last years changes to the regulations, dogdancers are now permitted to touch their dogs kindly before and after the choreography. This new rule has been well practioned and we were able to see many pleasant moments of respect and connection between dog and human.

FCI

We are delighted that Switzerland - in particular the national association SKG - has now a delegatee in the committee of dogdance of FCI. We would like to thank Marianne Rentsch, who has assigned voluntarily to this task.

World Championship WDS Moscow 2016

Our sincere congratulations go to Yvonne Belin: She became world champion 2016 in the class „Dogdance Freestyle“.

Of course we would also like to congratulate all the other participants of DDI e.V. for their great performances.

DDI e.V.

DDI e.V. is an amazing community for dogdance; we live dogdance, we work in the name of dogdance. More advertising on tournaments is possible and highly desired. DDI e.V. should be put to the fore more often out of many reasons. We have very good and practicable regulations.

Long live Dogdance International; my thanks go to all board members and in particular to our president Axel Weber, who worked hard last year.

Long live dogdance, long live Dogdance International!

2nd july 2016

Applause accompanies Christine's words.

Jana Lorenz, treasurer

- 1) Cash check, revenue surplus has been prepared:
- 2) Earnings: just under 10.000 Euro:
 - Sponsors (Animonda / Uelzener)
 - Membership fees
 - Royalties
 - Donation of minimal amount
- 3) Expenses: 8.100 Euros
 - We didn't charge for judge workshops
 - Software of our association
 - Homepage
 - Advertisement
 - Postal charges (sending licences and banners)
 - Account management fees
- 4) Surplus: accurately 1.799,90 Euros
- 5) A new standard form is in progress, with the goal to simplify recoveries.
- 6) In the future we will collect the membership fees until february, as it used to be.

TOP 4: Cash audit and discharge of the executive board.

Treasurer's report has been approved unanimous. No dissenting vote.
Judith Loy and Denise Nardelli carried out the cash audit and found it to be in order.

Axel reads out the written statements of Judith and Denise.

Katharina Henf applies for a discharge of the executive board.

Voting result:

12 yes votes, 0 dissenting votes, 3 abstentions

The motion is adopted.

TOP 5: Request by Christine Szakacs:

If members request a change of tournament regulations, the executive board ought to have final competence. Members are welcomed to call for proposals to change specific tournament regulations until the end of each year.

Further explanations by Christine:

The question of excessive regulations in our DDI e.V. set of rules arises more and more often. As a basic principle, this amount of regulations conforms to our statutes, because every member is entitled to help shape our sport. Many years of hard work shaped our regulations, and so far this has been perfectly fine. But the feedback is, that by now there are so many changes

again and again, that it's getting quite difficult for some dogdancers to keep updated, and participants from aboard get more and more troubles to keep up.

Christine has an idea that should help to make decisions more flexibly on the one hand, while keeping the regulations more stable: some decisions should be left to the executive board; thereby the annual general meeting wouldn't get overstrained by (too) many details. Of course the possibility of every single member to write to the executive board relating to regulations, worries and woes would remain.

Axel indicates to an upcoming request by Judith Loy (constancy of statutes for two years).

Discussion:

Janna: Since members are still allowed to submit requests I think it's a good idea.

Thorsten: Would it still be possible to comment a request? Can the rest of the association still see the member's requests, which will be decided by the executive board?

Christine: It can and should be discussed in advance, but a publication isn't planned.

Thorsten: I would like more ways of getting informed, respectively to announce my opinion. What about a publication, maybe with a time-limit.

Axel: I can see the risk that it will get too confusing online and a lot of additional work will be necessary.

Katarina: I have absolute confidence in this executive board and their decisions. But how will it turn out, if the next board gets elected out of administrative reasons and doesn't know much about dogdance?

Christine: I'm not concerned about that, because a board must always make an effort to include all opinions and views.

Janina: What about having a time-limit?

Out of the plenum: It is always possible to rechange the regulations, so it doesn't make much sense to introduce temporary decision.

After a few more requests to speak (without new contents), the executive board is calling the vote:

Voting result:

11 yes votes, 1 dissenting vote, 3 abstentions

Christine's request is accepted.

TOP 6: The logical consequence arises, that the regulations have to be changed and formulated as stated in the invitation letter.

Voting result:

13 yes votes, 0 dissenting votes, 2 abstentions

The request is accepted.

TOP 7: Request by Anneke Freudenberger:

Reintroduction of concealed judging.

Axel Weber reads out Anneke's statement.

Discussion:

Katharina: Maybe we could amend, that participants who make derogatory remarks get sanctioned, maybe even banned from tournaments?

Janina: That's difficult to maintain because social medias are too vast.

Melanie: And maybe it would lead to an odd public perception?

Janna: We are just talking about cases of border crossing, not about normal inquiries.

Thorsten: Of course, questions always have to be answered, but it's not okay to air frustrations.

Björn: No punishment. If the derailment is too intense, there's still the german law to call. But in general I think concealed judging is a good thing, because it helps judges not to get too unsettled. The half-open judging is pretty much fully open anyway. Not every judge can withstand the pressure easily.

Besides: Open judging boosts ambitions, so it seems obvious to change the judging system towards concealing.

Sandra: If I know which judge made which decision, it's easier to discuss the issue, so the talking behind other's backs would decrease. Fully open judging would be easier though.

Melanie: Several judges can evaluate things differently. For example one judge understood a concept, two didn't. If the judging would be made openly, it would become easier to understand the verdict.

Janna: I support judging openly out of global reasons (internationally it's the common way of judging). But it is more difficult for new judges, who are still learning.

Janina: The point-system doesn't help the competitors much, rather seek a public discussion. That's why we have the concealed judging.

Johanna: It's wrong to harm somebody. All the many numbers used in open judging are confusing, and it's hard to realize what you can actually improve. I advocate better communication as well.

Christine: I appreciate the personal contacts as well. My appeal: not just focus on what the judges didn't like that much, but focus on what worked well. At the start as well as when judging. Judges make mistakes, but they take utmost pain to be fair. Everybody, who starts in an official class wants to get ranked, so they have to live with it. In actual fact the standard (which is to have happy dogs) increases all the time, but there are more complaints and objections.

Janna: If the judging is concealed or open doesn't affect the participants comprehension. There is no additional benefit by changing the system of judging.

Janina: Well, maybe concealed judging forces the judges to communicate more, which would be a good thing.

Sandra: It's just impossible to communicate with every participant. They have to approach the judges by themselves.

Axel: Fun should still be in the foreground, and in the end it's about nothing else.

Jörg: I understand everybody here, actually the point system doesn't help much. But maybe we should just keep the open judging system for another year. Even if I support the concealed judging, I advise to drop that topic, so this constant back and forth comes to an end.

Janina: But it's about the content of the decision, not about the silliness of changing the rules year by year.

Christine: The main focus according to the request is to be on the protection of new judges.

After a few more requests to speak (without new contents), the executive board is calling the vote:

Voting result:

2 yes votes, 8 dissenting votes, 5 abstentions

Anneke's request is rejected.

The status quo of (half-)open judging remains.

TOP 8: Request by Carmen Schmid:

Promotion points for non-members.

Axel Weber reads out Carmen's request and statement.

Christine: It affects the regulations on page 13 (exception for starters of other associations, concerning their first start).

So the exact wording would have to be changed. In the past the executive board had to grant a derogation once before because of a similar problem. In my opinion this request is advisable.

Axel: DDI promotion points are only available if you have a DDI licence. The problem is the term „non-members“.

Axel presents Claudia's idea: DDI e.V. should negotiate with other associations, so that start classes could be compared and each association would accept the other's classes.

Christine: What happens, if they don't accept this suggestion?

Björn: Is it possible that we commit ourselves to it? And then we just give our recommendation to other associations.

Axel: In France I joined a DD tournament and got asked, if I have a licence and if I could please grade myself.

Katharina: We all agree on the issue: it's a good idea, but who will make the final decision?

Björn: When someone applies for a licence?

Katharina: It's not about the first start, but later ones.

Björn: Still I suggest the decision should be made by the licence office.

Jana: The practical implementation will be difficult (concerning time and language).

Melanie: The main judge should do it, plus a real verification by one's own association is necessary.

Jana: If the main judge undertakes the task, he could eventually correct wrong decisions afterwards.

Christine: Regardless of Carmen being an experienced organizer, how will it turn out if the organizer is not experienced at all?

Jana: Organizer and main judge can jointly coordinate.

Melanie: A general information should be given to all participants by the tournament's organization.

Axel: We have to rephrase the request. Information would be important, especially it should be written down into the "organisation handbook".

Voting result about original request:

0 yes votes, 13 dissenting votes, 2 abstentions

The request is rejected.

The discussion showed that everybody understands the problem, but because of the fact that this issue only concerns very few tournaments so far, the consistent opinion is to discuss this topic at a later time again. At this point, changes in the regulations are not desired.

It is difficult to draw the line at this issue, because the term „DDI member respectively non-member“ doesn't match the whole topic, neither does „foreign and/or domestic starter“.

Break from 18:30 to 19:30

Katrin Schroth leaves the meeting.

After breaktime there are 14 members present who are entitled to vote.

TOP 9: Request by Jessi Rolfini:

Country representatives.

Request is read out.

Voting result:

14 yes votes, 0 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions

The request is accepted unanimously.

TOP 10: Request by Silvia Kempf:

Helpers are allowed to carry requisites into the ring.

Request is read out.

Voting result:

13 yes votes, 0 dissenting votes, 1 abstention

The request is accepted unanimously.

TOP 11: Request by Johanna Schmidt:

Secured jackpot-zone.

Request is read out.

There is a consensus among the round of discussions about the fact, that organizers can make their own and free decision. Further they agree on the issue, that this point should be incorporated into the „organisation handbook“, because it is a very good idea. But it shouldn't be written down as an obligation.

Voting result:

0 yes votes, 11 dissenting votes, 3 abstentions.

The Request is rejected.

TOP 12: Request by Barbara Feldbauer:

Possibility to participate in fun class using a training lash.

Request and statement are read out.

Round of discussions (Melanie, Björn, Sandra, Axel, Jana among others): Dogs should be prepared well enough to start at a tournament without needing a lash anymore. It's possible to simulate the atmosphere of a tournament before actually participating.

Voting result:

0 yes votes, 14 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions

The request is rejected.

TOP 13: Request by Debra Benard:

Extension of judicial term from two years to five years when attending further training.

Request is read out.

Amendment by Christine Szakacs: There are a few judges, who weren't able to participate in workshops in the past (due to late scheduling or long distances). Christine explains in the name of Claudia, that Debra got a special permission because of the mistake that the date wasn't mentioned on the english homepage.

The following round of discussions directs towards the result, that five years are just too long for judges to keep up-to-date if they only judge rarely or not at all for a while.

Voting result:

0 yes votes, 10 dissenting votes, 4 abstentions

The request is rejected.

TOP 14: Request by Judith Loy:

Determination of regulations for two years.

Request is read out.

Discussion leads to the result, that as of next year on the executive board will resolve the changes of regulations. That's why the justification of this request becomes void. Members can hand in requests during the year and the executive board incorporates them into the set of rules.

Voting result:

0 yes votes, 13 dissenting votes, 1 abstention

The request is rejected.

TOP 15: Miscellaneous requests that were put on the agenda at short notice.

1) Request by Fruzzi Wilhelm:

Fill up official classes before fun classes at official tournaments.

Christine: It would be a pity if starters of class 3 were rejected but starters of fun classes accepted, especially in tournaments with a big advertising effect as for example at an exhibition.

Katharina: Organizers should provide trainee classes (as fun classes) in periods of smaller numbers of visitors, since these classes are often elaborated not too striking. The set of regulations allows this already; in fun class it's possible to provide own classes if they are clearly defined.

Determination from Jana: an organizer is already allowed to provide but official classes.

There is a consensus among the round of discussions among the fact, that organizers must be able to decide on their own what they provide. A fixed regulation, which forces them is not desired.

Voting result:

0 yes votes, 14 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions

The request is rejected.

2) Request by Nora Karlyik:

If dogdancers are already allowed to start in Freestyle class three, it should mean that they are allowed as well in class three HTM.

Christine: I support this proposal, so HTM can develop further quickly and is not restrained.

Word-for-word translation of the potential regulation:

Starters, who are already allowed to start in class three in their division (Freestyle or HTM) are allowed to select the entry level in the other division.

Voting result:

13 yes votes, 0 dissenting votes, 1 abstention

The request is accepted.

Amendment in set of regulations:

Page 13, item „start“:

„Further exeption: starters, who are already allowed to start in class 3 in their division (Freestyle or HTM) ...“

Voting result:

13 yes vote, 0 dissenting votes, 1 abstention

The amendment is accepted.

3) Christine Szakacs:

Issue of copyright on pictures.

It has been asked if organizers are allowed to publish pictures of tournaments.

Axel recommends, that organizers should insert a passage on the application form to make sure that every participant agrees to picture and video recordings (and their further use by organizers).

4) Claudia finalizes the **licence booklets** for Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Therefore, these countries will get uniform booklets in their national languages. The licence booklets are a limited edition.

5) Christine Szakacs:
Starting on slippery ground.

Christine has been asked, if it could be permitted to use paw protections when a tournament takes place on slippery ground. In principle, Christine doesn't want to include this in the set of regulations. But of course the main judge is entitled to decide in exceptional situations if he allows paw protections on a particular floor covering.

Amendment by Björn: Within a class it has to be ensured that everybody gets the same conditions. It has to be communicated, that starting with the next class, it is allowed to use paw protections.

6) Christine Szakacs (Cora Czermak):

Cora initiated a youth project. Christine reports, that there are young people at the tournaments, but unfortunately these are occasional cases. Cora desires some more advertisement for children in dogdance. Maybe all members could promote and support youth work.

Amendment by Christine: Could DDI e.V. drop the entry fee?

Björn's experience is that children have some difficulties to lead the dog stress-free to a tournament, therefore dogdance training would be better for them. That's why he objects financial support for starting fee.

Janna mentions the possibility to establish a lower age limit.

Christine raises the fact that the initial topic is how DDI e.V. can support youth work.

Round of discussions leads to the insight that it's difficult to support the participation of youths in tournaments, but maybe the support is conceivable on another level.

Conclusion: We want to report of Cora's youth project and present it on our homepage.

7) Christine Szakacs:
Qualification for world championship.

Open tournaments are well established in all countries by now as well as the qualification system for the participation at Crufts. Furthermore exists a tournament for the OEC qualification.

Christine applies, that the OEC qualification tournament passes for qualification of the world championship (World Dog Show) as well. Starters should be able to mark on the application form if they would accept the potential qualification for one or both tournaments, if they reach a sufficient rank.

Discussion leads to a member's consent.

Conclusion: Next year it will be executed as said.

Short break at 21:00

Annette Seidel-Mißfeldt, Jörg Rogge, Janina Stannek and Björn Roden leave the meeting.

After breaktime there are 10 members present who are entitled to vote.

8) Sponsoring

Animonda: Organizers of tournaments in Germany can get food prizes. Particular tournaments can receive funding for the trophies.

Uelzener: They picked the tournaments themselves and contracted the sponsoring.

Trophies were and remain sponsored by DDI e.V.

Jana's appeal: Sponsoring requires high transparency!

The production of a new Animonda banner is in progress.

It is considered to make a list of all tournaments. However, it's the decision of the sponsors which tournaments they want to support. On the other side, organizers can choose their preferred sponsors as well.

9) Banner DDI e.V.

Jana proposes to print two more banners and to coordinate the passing on. The assembly discusses approvingly.

Axel suggests two banners with a width of seven meters and one of twelve meters.

10.) Claudia Moser's proposal, read out by Christine Szakacs:

Senior's / Handicap classes should be judged more comparable.

Claudia's idea: The evaluation criterias „content“ and „level of difficulty“ should simply be left out in Senior's and Handicap classes.

Already 18 judges gave their opinion to this proposal: just one judge disapproves, all the others support the idea.

Melanie supports this idea as well, paired with her own idea that it should be possible to give a short feedback.

Christine states, that in practice there have already been several cases, in which neither content nor level of difficulty were crucial factors for ranking. In addition she is bothered by the formulation „to stop people who are too ambitious“. Christine pleads for a wording that is less educational.

Sandra wants to keep her dog healthy as long as possible, that's why she prefers to keep the incentives concern and level of difficulty. There are enough opportunities to draw upon the health of the animals.

Janna should like to be able to start without the requirement of fulfilling the two criterias. Especially if the dog has a deficiency that's hard to spot.

Christine desires the allowance of class three dogs to shift to senior's class.

Katharina: The revaluation from 50% artistry and 50% technique to 2/3 and 1/3 in favour of the artistic characteristics is preferable and she appreciates Claudia's idea.

These votes were followed by a very lively and interesting discussion; but a decision has not yet been taken.

Axel thanks his colleagues on the Board of Executive, the remaining members for their keen participation and Katharina for taking minutes and for organizing the annual general meeting. He closes the meeting at 21:54.

List of participants

Axel Weber

Christine Szakacs

Jana Lorenz

Melanie Felix

Johanna Tischler

Janna M. Müller

Katrin Schroth

Janina Stannek

Björn Roden

Katharina Henf

Thorsten Walter

Jörg Rogge

Annette Seidel-Mißfeldt

Heidi Schwörer-Weber

Katharina Henf, keeper of the minutes

Reiner Birkmeyer, secretary Dogdance International e.V.