

Minutes of the International Dobermann Club (IDC) Congress held on Friday, 5th September, 2003 in Bratislava, Slovakia

1.1. Welcoming by the President – Mr. Hans Wiblishauser

Mr. Wiblishauser officially opened the Congress at 10h00 and welcomed all countries represented. Mr. Wiblishauser thanked the Dobermann Club of Slovakia and in particular their President, Mrs. Gabriela Ridarcikova for hosting the IDC Congress and the Show. The Congress is honoured by the attendance of the FCI President, Mr. H. Müller.

1.2. IDC Office Bearers

President	-	Mr. H. Wiblishauser (Germany)
Vice President	-	Mr. F. Striby (France)
Secretary	-	Mr. H. Redtenbacher (South Africa)
Treasurer	-	Mr. R. Beunekens (Belgium)
IDC Breed Warden	-	Mr. W. Hensel (Germany)
IDC Working Trials Warden	-	Mr. R. Freidrich (Germany)

1.3. Countries represented and eligible to vote

The following countries were represented:

• Austria	-	Inge Eberstaller
• Belgium	-	Roland Beunekens
• Brazil	-	Gris Gongalves / Moacyr de Oliveira
• Check Republic I	-	Ivana Lupeckova / Mr. Ruzicka
• Check Republic II	-	Tomas Hubka
• Finland	-	Hannu Asumaa
• France	-	Jacques Charrier
• Germany	-	Hans Wiblishauser
• Holland	-	represented, membership form not completed
• Hungary	-	Dohoczki Tama's
• Italy	-	Pierluigi Pezzano
• Japan	-	represented, membership form not completed
• Luxemburg	-	Debras Yvette
• Poland	-	Janusz Rururz
• Portugal	-	Fernando Magelhaes
• Slovakia	-	Wolfgang Freyer
• South Africa I	-	Helmut Redtenbacher
• Sweden	-	Thord Byström
• USA II	-	Roberto Zorzi

1.4. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following persons:

- Allan Berling Christensen (Denmark)
- Nazarene Mondello (USA I)

1.5. Minutes from the 2002 Congress held in Desio, Italy

The minutes from the previous IDC Congress held on 6th September, 2002 in Italy were made available to all member countries before the Congress and were unanimously adopted.

1.6. Secretarial Office

During the course of the year, the Secretarial Office prepared a membership form which was emailed to all member countries with a request for the return of the completed form. Additional copies were made available at the Congress. **Completed forms have still not been returned from the following member countries: Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, Spain, Switzerland & USA I (United Dobermann Club).** The above-mentioned countries are urgently requested to return completed forms without delay.

The Secretarial Office furthermore made available, in English and German, the IDC Order of Business as well as the IDC Show Regulations.

Email addresses are still outstanding for the following countries: China, Greece, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Slovenia & Switzerland.

1.7. Finance

The Treasurer, Mr. R. Beunekens, presented the following financial information:

A. Balance Transmission Account (Belgium):	2 984,85 Euro
B. Balance Investment Account (Lichtenstein) :	12 526,19 Euro
	Total: 15 511,04 Euro

Countries in arrears were given one last opportunity and reminder to bring their membership contributions up to date. Failure to do so in the ensuing year will lead to expulsion from the IDC at the 2004 Congress.

Basic membership fee per annum: 150.- Euro + 30 cents per Club member. All contributions to be made into the transmission account as follows:

BIC: KREDBEBB
IBAN: BE68 7350 0577 6134
KREDITBANK
P. VANHOUDTSTRAAT 2
B-3582 KOERSEL. BELGIUM.

1.8. IDC Membership

1.8.1. A membership application was received from The American Dobermann Association (ADA). The application was supported by the President, Mr. R. Zorzi, who addressed the Congress. The application was successful. With the exception of Italy and France, both of whom abstained, all countries represented voted in favour of the application. The ADA has a membership of 100.

The President, Mr. Wiblishauser, congratulated Mr. Zorzi and welcomed the ADA in the IDC.

2.0. Annual Report by the IDC President – Mr. Hans Wiblishauser

Mr. Wiblishauser's annual report dealt with the following main aspects:

1. The existence, the fostering and the broadening and therefore also the breeding and the development of our Breed depends in the first instance on the current office bearers in the various countries. Strong fluctuations occurred during the last couple of years and continue at present. Fortunately in some countries, under the influence of their incumbent Presidents, positive developments have taken place. Unfortunately, some countries which were in the past considered Dobermann strongholds, regressed considerably. For this regression our Breed is subsequently blamed quite unjustifiably as the development of our Breed tended to be positive. It is not the Breed which deteriorated, but rather the people who care for it. Many office bearers do not fulfil their duty and are not prepared to live up to their responsibilities. Any leading position is coupled to considerable word input and even if the

breeding and ownership of large dogs in particular has become more difficult, more needs to be done to do justice to our cause. The numerous events, shows and ZTP tests are, however, a positive development for international co-operation. As we all know, in this day and age, a dog breed can only exist and develop if it meets the requirements of a sometimes intolerant society. More and more countries enact legislation which makes the ownership of dogs more difficult if not impossible.

2. The VDH (German Canine Umbrella Body) is of the opinion that this new legislation offers society not any more protection from dangerous dogs but rather inhibits many responsible dog owners and curtails their rights. Thus, 90 complainants together lodged an objection against this legislation at the Federal Constitutional Court in Germany. The VDH strongly supports this action. As a sign of partial success the court has granted a date (05/11/2003 in Karlsruhe) for a verbal representation. The importance of excluding our Dobermann from such legislation is obvious and only purposeful Breed Selection, such as we already practice in the country of origin for decades, secured for our Breed that place in contemporary society which it deserves on account of its temperament and exterior. Together let us assure this position and improve it further. In this regard the World Championship provides an additional positive aspect for co-operation within the IDC. This annual event which took place in Holland this year has become one of the highlights of the International Dobermann Club and one would like to see even more countries taking part.
3. The Breed Standard of the Dobermann remains unaltered. The DV is of the opinion that the present text of the Breed Standard which treats equally the cropped and un-cropped variety (ears and tails) is more than adequate. Numerous requests from various quarters demanding a Breed Standard revision were declined by the DV in no uncertain terms and we assume that this action would have your support and would be in the interests of IDC member countries. Once the necessary experience and information is available then we will pronounce upon the un-cropped ear and un-docked tail in our Breed Standard. This rather tolerant position of the country of origin, however, requires an absolute commitment to recognise and apply the current Breed Standard (as lodged with the FCI) at all shows and events worldwide within the FCI sphere and in all associated countries. We cannot tolerate some countries ignoring the Breed Standard on very important points. Only in this way can we maintain and increase the popularity of our Dobermann and ensure that the dog lovers will be able to enjoy this noble, reliable and contemporary Breed.

Dobermann More Fun

3.0. Annual Report by the IDC Breed Warden – Mr. Walter Hensel

The IDC Breed Warden, Mr. Hensel presented his annual report in the form of a paper and dealt with the following main aspects:

1. The Breed Suitability Test (ZTP) is a central issue within the workings and aims of the IDC. The annex for the holding of ZTP events in IDC member countries has now been published and distributed. It contains the additional regulations for regular ZTPs as well as the possibility of the newly instituted 'Starter ZTP'. Quite a few of these combined tests (ZTP with Breed permission and Starter ZTP) have been held, however, in most cases the required time frame for the registration thereof was not observed. Consequently, the important assessment of the preconditions could not take place with the necessary care and time and again special dispensation had to be granted. From 2004 onwards, only those ZTP tests will be licenced for which an application has been lodged, timeously with the DV Head Office in Munich.
2. The fight against genetic diseases in our Breed or rather in dogs in general is continued unabated by the 'Society for Advancement of Cynological Research (GFK)' in intensive co-operation with various University Clinics. However, details of the various research projects and current results would exceed the parameters of this report. The panel of specialists for the heart research project, as mentioned last year, is due to be announced shortly.
3. With regard to tail anomalies I am not aware of any new developments and the research by the University of Vienna has not been published as yet.

4. As a result of the consistent application of the FCI guidelines, 'hip dysplasia' has not become a problem within our Breed. Gratifying here is also the trend towards a unification of the assessments by means of A, B, C, D & E. The sub-division into A1 or A2 still practiced by some countries should soon disappear.
5. The earlier discussions in Germany regarding eye diseases have become a matter of objective assessment and the 'Society for diagnosing genetic eye diseases', supported and assisted by EVCO (European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists), assures us of these objective assessments. Contrary to original concerns no general examinations are necessary in Germany and only applicants for the 'Körung' are obliged to undergo eye tests.
6. We should not make a disease an immediate problem of our Breed just because it happened to occur in a particular country. Measures need to be adopted only if and when a Breed Population as a whole is affected beyond a certain level. Let us direct our efforts in order to realise the application of the ZTP worldwide in as many IDC member countries as possible for the well being of our Breed.

Thank you for your attention

4.0. Annual Report by the IDC Working Trials Warden – Mr. Rainer Friedrich

The IDC Working Trials Warden, Mr. Friedrich presented his annual report in the form of a paper and dealt with the following main aspects:

1. The IDC World Championships 2003 held in Holland was most successful. The organisation was outstanding with optimum conditions for dogs, handlers and visitors. Although individual entries could still be improved upon, the great number of participating countries still varies considerably, it must be our aim to increase the circle of participants even further.
2. For the first time, the new IPO regulations were in force which simplify the international dog sport and unify the training work considerably. The results of the World Championships were most satisfactory as a third of all participants achieved a grading of excellent or very good. This constitutes a considerable improvement over previous years.
3. The onus rests also on you, the delegates, to canvas for the next IDC World Championships in Slovakia. I wish to emphasize that the German Championships as well as the Federal Tracking Trials (Bundesfahrtenausscheidung) are open to entries of qualified participants. As the country of origin of our Breed, we wish to send a signal that our common Working Trials Tests are not limited to the IDC World Championships.

You are welcome to contact me for further information and thank you for your attention.

5.0. Current Problems facing the Dobermann Breed

- 5.1. The Portugese delegate expressed his concern about degenerative diseases in the Dobermann Breed in Portugal and informed the Congress of a health control system instituted in that country. This system proposes health check-ups at 12 – 18 months of age, at 3 years of age and at 6 years of age consisting of : HD, Cardio, Eyes, Thyroid and Wobbler-syndrome assessments. The total cost for the 3 sets of tests is in the region of 450.-Euro. Full details may be obtained from the Dobermann Club of Portugal.

6.0. The IDC Sieger Breed Show

- 6.1. At the 2002 IDC Congress the Spanish delegate, Mr. Beltran, offered to host the IDC Congress and Show for the year 2005. There being no delegate present from Spain at this year's Congress, no final confirmation for this offer could be obtained. The Secretarial Office will seek clarification without delay (**Spain has withdrawn its offer and at this time there is no confirmed venue for the 2005 IDC Congress and Show.**)

7.0. Proposals

- 7.1. The Finnish delegate proposed that all IDC member countries should publish all HD and Eye (PHTVL/PHPV) assessment results on their websites and update them annually as the publication thereof in their relevant magazines is not adequate. In reply, Mr. Hensel informed the Congress that Germany is already considering this possibility.
- 7.2. The Belgian delegate requested IDC member countries to refrain from organising their annual Club Championship Shows on the same weekends. There was a commitment from all countries present to observe this request.
- 7.3. **ZTP Proposals**
- a) Mr. Hensel once again referred to Annex A which deals with the regulations applicable to the holding of ZTP Tests in IDC Member Countries. The following ruling was accepted regarding the participation in ZTP Tests held in third countries i.e.: “The participation in ZTP Tests held in third countries, under DV Judges, is only possible if and when the relevant Home-Dobermann Verein grants its permission.”
 - b) The proposal by the Portuguese delegate, that dogs can only be entered into ZTP Tests in Germany or their country of registration, already forms part of the ZTP regulations as set out by the DV.
 - c) South Africa informed the Congress about continued temperament tests taking place under the auspices of the UDC (USAI) with the description ZTP or D-ZTP, although these tests are taking place without a DV Licence or recognition of the DV. The Secretary was requested to again inform the UDC of the consequences of holding these irregular events and to insist on a response from the UDC President. In this matter, the UDCs attention is furthermore directed to the decisions of the IDC Congress in 2001 in Paris.
 - d) South Africa requested that the results of all ZTP Tests held in IDC Member Countries be published in the DV Magazine, Unser Dobermann (UD). Germany confirmed that this already the case.

8.0. Venues for future IDC Events

The following venues have been approved by the Congress and where indicated dates are also confirmed:

- IDC Congress & Show 2004 – Hosted by the Dobermann Club of Italy (AIAD).
- IDC World Championship 2004 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Slovakia
- IDC Congress & Show 2005 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Spain (no longer valid)
- IDC World Championship 2005 – Hosted by Dobermann of Germany.
- IDC Congress & Show 2006 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Belgium.
- IDC World Championship 2006 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Belgium
- IDC Congress & Show 2007 – Hosted by MSDK (Check Republic I)
- IDC World Championship 2007 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Italy.

9.0. General

The Secretarial Office again appealed to all IDC Member Countries, not currently on the email address list, to forward without delay, their email addresses to the Secretary, whose email address details were made available to all present.

10.0. Closing address by The President

Mr. Wiblshauer thanked all delegates for their constructive participation in the discussions and wished all judges for the IDC Show good fortune on the day and all exhibitors success in the Show Ring and all spectators a pleasant stay in Bratislava. In particular, Mr. Wiblshauer thanked FCI President, Mr. Hans Müller, for attending the IDC Congress and Show weekend in an honorary capacity.

The meeting closed at 13h15.

Minutes prepared
IDC Secretary
H. Redtenbacher

1st President of the IDC
H. Wiblishauser