



Minutes of the International Dobermann Club (IDC) Congress held on Friday, 3rd September, 2004 in Desio, Italy

1.1. Welcoming by the President – Mr. Hans Wiblishauser

Mr. Wiblishauser officially opened the Congress at 14h45 and welcomed all countries represented. He thanked the AIAD (Dobermann Club of Italy) and in particular their President, Dr. Pierluigi Pezzano for hosting the IDC Congress and the Show, combining hospitality, friendly organisation and competence.

1.2. IDC Office Bearers

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|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 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) |

2.0. Countries represented and eligible to vote

The following countries were represented:

- Austria - Erwin Deutscher
- Belgium - Roland Beunekens
- Brazil - Gris Gongalves / Moacyr de Oliveira
- Check Republic I - Jana Ruzickova
- Check Republic II - Jaroslava Sykorova
- Denmark - Allan Berling Christensen
- Finland - Hannu Asumaa
- Germany - Hans Wiblishauser
- Holland - Han van der Zwan
- Hungary - Tamas Dohoczki
- Italy - Pierluigi Pezzano
- Portugal - Fernando Magalhaés
- Slovakia - Wolfgang Freyer
- South Africa - Helmut Redtenbacher
- Sweden - Thord Byström
- USA II (ADA) - Roberto Zorzi

3.0. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following countries:

- Tatiana Kulachenko (Russia)
- Switzerland

4.0. Minutes from the 2003 Congress held in Bratislava, Slovakia

The minutes from the previous IDC Congress held on 5th September, 2003 in Slovakia were made available to all member countries before the Congress and were unanimously adopted.

5.0. Secretarial Office

- 5.1. Email Addresses:** Despite repeated requests and appeals, various IDC member countries still do not inform the Secretarial Office of changes in email addresses and changes of office bearers. This places an additional burden both in time and expense upon the Secretary. This year's IDC Weltmeisterschaft was a typical case in point where much additional email correspondence and telephonic conversations was caused by incorrect or out-dated information.
- 5.2. Distribution of Minutes:** The minutes were distributed to all Member Countries for which correct email addresses were on record.
- 5.3. Membership Forms:** The Secretarial Office prepared a membership form, which each IDC Member Club is required to complete on an annual basis. This form was emailed to all member countries with a request for the return of the completed form. Additional copies were made available at the Congress. A number of Member Countries have yet to return these forms to the Secretary and are urgently requested to do so without delay. Countries not attending the Congress are requested to return the membership form by email.

6.0. Finance

The Treasurer, Mr. R. Beunekens, expressed his satisfaction at being able to inform the Congress that all member countries are up to date with their contributions and presented the following financial information:

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| A. Balance Transmission Account (Belgium): | 9 220.12 Euro |
| B. Balance Investment Account (Lichtenstein) : | 12 526.19 Euro |
| Total: | <u>21 746.31 Euro</u> |

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.

The Congress thanked Mr. Beunekens for his report.

7.0. IDC Membership

7.1. APPLICATIONS

7.1.1. A preliminary membership application was received from Serbia & Montenegro, substantiated and supported by Dr. Pezzano. Serbia & Montenegro is home to some 50 Dobermann breeders who intend forming a Club with the aim of seeking IDC membership. At present there are no regulations governing the Breed in these countries and guidance from the IDC would be most welcome. The Congress encouraged the representative from Serbia & Montenegro and indicated that any future application for IDC membership by a Club from S&M would be favourably dealt with.

7.2. TERMINATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

There were no terminations of membership.

7.3. **RESIGNATIONS**

7.3.1. Regarding the resignation of the Dobermann Club of France, the Secretary, Mr. Redtenbacher, upon request by the IDC President read out all correspondence pertaining to this issue. Mr. Wiblishauser refuted, in particular, all references to any perceived favouritism in the Show. In response to France's complaint about the clash of Show dates with Italy, Dr. Pezzano informed the Congress that for 2 years in succession, Italy had to move their Show date because of lack of approval by the authorities. He expressed his regrets that a big country like France should leave the IDC. The delegate from Holland, Mr. van der Zwan, recorded not only his regrets about France's resignation but also took Dr. Charrier to task for not accepting the invitation to attend, thereby depriving us of the possibility to answer his concerns. As the Dobermann Club of France also queried the usage of IDC funds, our Treasurer Mr. Beunekens replied that the subsidies for the Show and Weltmeisterschaft amounted to some 4 000.- Euro per annum and the Secretary, Mr. Redtenbacher, once again reiterated that all IDC office bearers carried out their functions in an honorary capacity and without financial compensation.

Mr. Wiblishauser concluded by expressing his regrets about the resignation of the Dobermann Club of France but stated that at present nothing further could be done regarding this matter.

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

The following is an extract from Mr. Wiblishauser's report and highlights the main aspects of his address:

The year under review brought us, apart from the IDC Show and Congress in Bratislava, also a very well organised Weltmeisterschaft which also took place in Slovakia. Under the guidance of the Slovakian Dobermann Club President, Gabriela Ridarcikova and their team around Alicia and Wolfgang Freyer, visitors, handlers and spectators experienced outstanding events.

Allow me to remark here, that obviously not all countries are aware of the existence of the IDC Weltmeisterschaft. Otherwise it cannot be explained that the President of the Dobermann Club of France states in one of his letters, *'that apart from the IDC Congress and Show, no further activities exist within the IDC.'* No French team has ever taken part in the 9 previous Weltmeisterschaft events. The French President, Dr. Charrier, justifies the termination of the membership of the Dobermann Club of France in the first instance with the repeated coinciding of the show dates of the French and Italian 'Siegershows' despite an agreement last year to avoid such a situation. Dear delegates, I ask for your understanding if I do not see it as the duty of my office to act as arbiter for the settling of disputes between humans and human animosities, whilst being aware that a certain amount of diplomatic effort is appropriate.

Our Congress takes place only once every year and the identification of Breed specific problems and their solution should be its purpose. Rather than using the available hours for securing a positive future for our dogs, we devote much time to unproductive discussions as to who pays how much to the IDC etc. etc. The accusation against me by Dr. Charrier for not having done enough in Germany so as to avoid the cropping and docking ban, I refute as absurd. If Dr. Charrier sees the solution to all this by simply going to Brussels, then I am more than willing to oblige him. I can assure you, however, today that that solution will most definitely include the whole of Europe and in the current political situation it would indeed be naive to assume that an extremely 'animal protection' orientated Europe would once again agree to ear cropping and tail docking.

If the IDC is criticised for lack of activities, then may I remind you, that impulses for further activities, but also their realisation, can only originate from within your ranks. Some time ago, in view of the lack of sufficient offers for the hosting of the IDC Congress and Show, we already discussed the possibility of holding the Congress and Show only every second year. Subsequent to that a number of applications were received, however, some were again withdrawn later. Even the 2004 IDC was threatened with cancellation at short notice for reasons which can only be discussed and settled in this

forum. I now ask you: who should realise new activities, if already the willingness for co-operation is lacking for successfully established events? The IDC is a voluntary union of national Dobermann Clubs worldwide. The country of origin does everything possible, time-wise, financially and personnel-wise to support all countries so as to assure them of an independent existence and the right to participate. The FCI also now sees the necessity of these world unions in increasing measure and recognition of these organisations in the statutes of the FCI is envisaged.

To summarise: These meetings should serve to establish clear structures which should then be put into effect, observed and developed further. If we are neither able nor willing to achieve this end, we might have to consider, whether it does not make more sense to establish a friendly 'drinking' Club where all the human weaknesses, shortcomings and strong points can be discussed in detail. We should at least be able to muster enough mutual respect so that our common concern – *'the Dobermann'* – always remains our uppermost priority.

In the spirit of this commitment, I ask you today and in future for your constructive contribution and I thank you for your attention.

9.0. 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:

- In his report Mr. Hensel refers to the new 'Starter ZTP' which was very well received by the IDC Member Countries. The great number of the already held ZTP tests bears witness to that. Difficulties are, however, still experienced with the evaluation and assessment of the required documentation. A further aim is the electronic data recording of all ZTPs and the entered dogs. With this temperament test we are achieving one of the preconditions for the establishment of uniform breeding regulations which is the declared purpose of the voluntary union of the IDC.
- The specialist body for heart examinations, the '*Collegium Cardiologicum*' continued to be active and of special concern is the quality assurance for the examinations and consultations as well as the certification of the examiners. Theoretical and practical tests of the examiners have already started and by the end of the year a list of approved examiners should be available.
- Of particular interest for our Breed is a research programme of the veterinary faculty of the University of Hannover. The aim of this programme is to discover the gene mutation which causes the blue and Isabella colour in the Dobermann. With the identification of this mutation it is possible to develop a gene test which could identify the carrier with certainty and consequently future matings could be planned so that no blue and Isabella coloured animals are born.
- With regard to tail anomalies, no new information is available and according to Dr. Tellhelm of the Veterinary Clinic of Gießen, the kinked tail does not constitute a priority in the research into genetic modifications of the dog.

Anybody wishing further details is welcome to contact me.

10.0. 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:

- The Working Trials Warden, Mr. Friedrich, congratulated the Slovakian Dobermann Club for the excellent organisation of the 2004 Weltmeisterschaft. Wolfgang and Alicia Freyer in particular deserve mention for this effort. Whilst we are conscious of the difficulties in achieving a common basis in the working disciplines, I welcome the fact that one IDC Weltmeisterschaft has achieved just that. Gratifying is not only the large entry of 42 but also the large number of 13 participating nations.

Team placings were as follows:

1. Germany
2. Italy
3. Check Republic II

4. Holland

Mr. Friedrich pleads for still more promotion in the various countries for this top event. The officiating judges, Dr. Pezzano (tracking), Mr. Kuak (obedience) and Mr. Paul (manwork) were working most evenly and correctly on both test dogs.

- Mr. Friedrich furthermore expressed his opinion to limit to six the participation per nation. It does not make sense to further enhance the dominance of the three or four major participating countries at the expense of smaller teams.
- The Weltmeisterschaft confirmed that we are able to breed not only dogs of outstanding 'exterieur' but also of excellent working ability.

11.0. Proposals

- 11.1. Finland – The Finnish Breeding Programme:** The Finnish delegate, Mr. Asumaa, informed the Congress of the breeding programme and the Breed regulations of the Finnish Dobermann Club and also made available a booklet which contains in considerable detail all aspects of Dobermann breeding in that country. The Finnish delegate also referred to the occurrence of natural 'bob-tailed' puppies in some Breeds which have existed already for 100 years.
- 11.2. USA II (ADA):** 1. The delegate from the USAII, Mr. Zorzi, pleaded for the implementation of the FCI Breed Standard for all IDC Member Countries and Clubs with particular reference to the current Breed Standard of the American Kennel Club (AKC). It was, however, unclear as to how the implementation thereof could be achieved or enforced.
2. Furthermore, ADA expressed their desire to organise the IDC World Championships in 2008 in the USA. The IDC would investigate the financial implications before committing itself.
- 11.3. Italy (AIAD):** Dr. Pezzano addressed the Congress and welcomed Mr. Wiblishauser, all delegates and wished everybody a pleasant stay and success. Italy proposed the requirement of a ZTP and a working qualification for all IDC Sieger dogs. In his motivation Dr. Pezzano refers to the history of the selection of purebred dogs and the importance of breeding healthy dogs of sound temperament. It is this commitment that led to the exclusion of the Dobermann from the so-called 'dangerous dogs' list. However, many breeders today are not professional and Internet buying and selling of dogs, particularly from the former East European countries, by-passes the breeding practices and programmes of more established Dobermann breeding countries. This proposal was accepted in principle.
- 11.4. Austria:** The Austrian delegate, Mr. Deutscher, requested a uniform description of all HD-assessments within IDC member countries. This proposal has great merit as the different nomenclature applied in different countries unnecessarily confuses HD assessments. A change to the FCI designation of A, B, C, D, E would obviously be beneficial.

12.0. Venues for future IDC Events

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

- IDC Congress & Show 2005 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Slovakia
- IDC World Championship 2005 – Hosted by Dobermann of Germany
- IDC Congress & Show 2006 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Belgium – **WITHDRAWN**
- IDC World Championship 2006 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Belgium - **WITHDRAWN**
- IDC Congress & Show 2007 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Hungary
- IDC World Championship 2007 – Hosted by Dobermann Club of Italy
- IDC Congress & Show 2008 – Hosted by the Dobermann Club of Sweden (in conjunction with the World Sieger Show in July, 2008)
- IDC World Championship 2008 – **OPEN**

13.0. 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.

14.0. Closing address by The President

Mr. Wiblishauser thanked all delegates for their constructive co-operation and participation in the discussions and wished everybody 2 pleasant days at the Show and lots of fun in Desio.

The meeting closed at 18h15.

Minutes prepared
IDC Secretary
H. Redtenbacher

1st President of the IDC
H. Wiblishauser