

WSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Guest house „Zum Grund“ / Reisenbach / Germany

on 30th of July 2016

10.35 am: Opening of the General Assembly

Topic 1

Welcome of members and guests from the WSA Chairman and report of previous year. Reports of other board members.

In fact of the official voting this year the general assembly started with distribution of Agenda including voting cards.

Afterwards the Chairman Arno Steichler welcomes delegates and guests

He briefly summarizes the activities of the other Board members and summarizes the previous year. Last but not least he specially thanks to Irene Valenkamp that she worked many many hours with translation for WSA and to our Director Public Relations for his great work.

Topic 2

Acceptance of invitation and agenda as per WSA statutes

The agenda was accepted with 34 yes votes/ 0 no votes/ 6 blank votes.

Topic 3

- **Count of delegates and votes (see separate list of delegates and votes – Annex 1)**
- **Attendance list**

Following the examination of the list of attendees by Cindy van den Brink and Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber and the update of the data, the following number of votes was established:

Board: 11 votes

Delegates: 29 votes

Club	Country	Name of delegate	Number of votes
WSA	Germany/ Germany	Christoph Diehl (Karsten Hesse)	2

Club	Country	Name of delegate	Number of votes
WSA	Germany	Michael Landau	1
WSA	Germany	Arno Steichler	1
WSA	Netherlands	Cindy Van den Brink	1
WSA	Austria	Manuela Petutschnig Gruber	1
WSA	Poland	Jacek Włodarczyk	1
WSA	France	Laurent Berge	1
WSA	Austria/Sweden	Christian Helm (Teunis Bos)	2
WSA	Scotland	John Carter	1
		IN TOTAL	11
VDSV	Germany	Ulrich Kuhn	2
		Leo Leonhardt	1
		Michael Landau	1
PASS	Poland	Mikołaj Włodarczyk	1
		Waldemar Stawowczyk	1
Concord	Russia	Elena Shepeleva	1
		Elena Shepeleva jr	1
DSO	Netherlands	Cindy Van den Brink	1
FFST	France	Patrik Roszyk	2
MBEL	Belgium	Rudiger de Pauw	1
		Freddy Guillaume	1
MCS	Switzerland	Guido Weilenmann	2
SSV	Switzerland	Robert Schiesser	2
PASS	Poland	Jacek Włodarczyk	1
		Mikołaj Włodarczyk	1
RSSC	Austria	Arnold Petutschnig	2
BMC	Czech Rep.	Stepan Krkoska	1
AMWA	England	Irene Valenkamp	1
SDAS	Scotland	Mary Carter	1
		James Smith	1
SPHK	Sweden	Karina Andreasen	2
NSHK	Norway	Kenneth Monsen	2
		IN TOTAL	29

A total number of 40 votes was established

Topic 4

Report of the Treasurer and the Financial Auditors - discharge of the Board

Cindy van den Brink reported on the accounts of the past year. The year ended with a loss of because of the fact that our championship was cancelled. The Financial Auditors Irene Valenkamp/ UK and Elena Shepeleva/ Russia are both present at the meeting and report that the accounts and the cashbook are in good order. Furthermore, they comment on the exemplary bookkeeping and request to discharge the Board – the Board is being discharged with

39 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

Topic 5

- **5.1. Finland – single membership applications of Erkki and Susanna Bürkland and Janne Härkönen (Annex 3.1 & 3.2). Until a national association joins the WSA Erkki, Susanna and Janne will act as Team Finland.**

The president explain the situation in Finnland - that until now WSA have no club from Finnland which want to sign in - so he ask the assembly to give the 3 Musers from finnland the possibility for a singlemembership to start on championships - until a club from finnland wants to sign in WSA.

The application is accepted with 36 yes / 0 no / 4 blanks

- **5.2. Lithuania – membership application (Annex 3.3)**

Arno Steichler reports that all papers of Lithuania are correcht and asked the assembly to vote on the application of Lithuania.. The application is accepted unanimously. Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber will inform the club via email about the positive outcome and welcome them into the WSA. In CC Treasurer / Chairman and Webmaster.

Accepted by a large majority

Topic 6

Election of a new Board for the duration of 3 years in a secret ballot (Annex 2)

Arno Steichler thanks all board for the last years - he reports that all current board members are available for reelection and if there are any other suggestion for board Election from 2016-2019. No other persons were proposed. The president ask the assembly to vote for 2 election officals to lead the voting and count votes. As election officals were proposed Ulrich Kuhn and Robert Schiesser - and finally voted with *33 yes / 5 no / 2 blank*.

The Board was voted by secret ballon as follows:

President: *Arno Steichler, Germany*

33 yes / 5 no / 2 blank

Vice-President: *Laurent Berge, France*

33 yes / 4 no / 0 blank / 3 not valid

Director-Sport: *Jacek Wlodarczyk, Poland*

32 yes / 7 no / 1 blank

Treasure: *Cindy van de Brink, Netherlands*

38 yes / 2 no / 0 blank

Secretary: *Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber, Austria*

40 yes / 0 no / 0 blank

The assembly voted with a majority to destroy the voting cards after election.

Topic 7

Election of the extended Board for the duration of 3 years (if necessary in a secret ballot) (Annex 2)

Arno Steichler reports that all current extended board members are available for reelection and if there are any other suggestion for etended board Election from 2016-2019.

No other Persons were suggested

So the assembly voted the extended Board as follows.

Director Sprint: *Christoph Diehl, Germany*

39 yes / 0 no / 1 blank

Director-Distance: *Michael Landau, Germany*

39 yes / 0 no / 1 blank

Director-Pulka: *Teunis Bos, Sweden*

36 yes / 0 no / 4 blank

Veternarian: *Karsten Hesse, Germany*

34 yes / 0 no / 6 blank

Director-Public Realations: *Chris Helm, Austria*

34 yes / 5 no / 1 blank

Director-Dryland: *John Carter, Great Britain*

34 yes / 5 no / 1 blank

Topic 8

Election of a new Race Judge Committee for the duration of 3 years (if necessary in a secret ballot) (Annex 2)

From the General Assembly following persons were voted by secret ballot as Race Judge Committee.

Rudiger de Pauw with 31 votes

Roderik Glastra with 29 votes

Jacek Wlodarczyk as Sport Director is automatically a member of the Race Judge Committee. (Dir. Sport/ part of our statutes)

Topic 9 – Dryland

Dryland rules presented by John Carter

After presentation of our new dryland rules and discussion of critical points, the president asked the general assembly to vote about the following points before the voting of acceptance of the whole rules.

Accepted by a large majority

- **9.1. – Juniors – same rules apply as in winter, no 4-dog class in Dryland**

The assembly voted for same rules like in winter – so only 2 dog class for juniors until new suggestions.

39 yes/ 1 no / 0 blank

- **9.2. – 3-wheeled rigs in 6-dog class - yes/no**

The assembly decided no 3 wheeled rigs in 6-dog class.

7 yes/ 28 no / 5 blank

- **9.3. – Claw break yes/no**

The assembly decided that there should be a advice for claw break but no obligation for claw breaks

2 yes / 36 no / 2 blank

- **9.4. – Minimum age dogs 15 rather than 12 months**

The assembly decided unanimously same rule like in winter – 15 months in same month like championship.

40 yes / 0 no / 0 blank

Topic 10 – National Quotas

The suggestion of National Quotas in this form was rejected by the assembly so the current Annex is valid until a new suggestion will be found.

15 yes / 20 no / 5 blank

The president asked the board to work on new suggestion for National Quotas

Topic 11 – World Cup

The proposal from Christoph Diehl - Worldcup was adopted by the majority

30 yes / 10 no / 0 blank

Topic 12 – Proposals WSA BOARD MEMBERS

Proposal 1: Change Annex II by Christof Diehl

Sticked to Topic 11 World Cup - the assembly adopted the Proposal 1 with a majority.

36 yes / 2 no / 2 blank

Proposal 2: Change of veterinary costs by Karsten Hesse and Christian Helm

Proposal 2 was adopted by the majority of the assembly.

36 yes / 0 no / 4 blank

Proposal 3: Change of number of delegates by Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber

Proposal 3 was rejected by the assembly

10 yes / 22 no / 8 blank

Topic 13 – Applications to host WSA Championships

Out of the Assembly there was setted an urgent application – to vote before point 13 about Norway Championship - which was voted as host for 2017 last year - but now they have the problem to fulfill the contract. So the majority want first to vote about if Championship will be held for more expenses in Norway or cancel Norway and find a other host for 2017 (Haidmühle already offered their help). The urgent application to vote for cancellation of Norway was accepted from the assembly.

The majority of the assembly voted for cancellation Norway

35yes / 1 no / 4 blank

- **13.1. – Application to host the 2017 Long Distance World Championship by SPHK in Särna (Sweden)**

Sweden presented a nice overview about their race and what they did in the past and what they plan in the future.

The assembly welcomed the application of Sweden SPHK and confirmed. with

38 yes / 2 no / 0 blank

- **13.2. – Application to host the 2017 Dryland World Championships**

Scotland and Belgium was asked by the president to think about hosting the future drylands. Both are willed to think about it.

- **13.3. – Applications to host the 2018 World Championships by Sweden and Germany**

Ulrich Kuhn as the president of VDSV reports that it is not willed from VDSV that the Championship will be held in Todtmoos under their umbrella

Sweden SPHK as our Member clarify the Swedish situation - but told that he allows the other club to organize the championship under their Umbrella

As VDSV is our Member from Germany the assembly accept their decision and vote for Sweden yes or no - with the result of a majority for Sweden

35 yes / 0 no / 5 blank

Topic 14 – IFSS

WSA letter to the IFSS and report by John Carter on IFSS GA

The current situation and the impressions from John Carter of the IFSS meeting was reported by John.

There was nothing to vote just to be informed.

Topic 15 – Nation ranking

Test of Olympic model for nation ranking – results from the WSA Working Group

The assembly accepted with a majority to test the Olympic model.

38 yes / 2 no / 0 blank

Topic 16 – Proposals from members

- **16.1. Proposals from ASIA, Italy I:**

- **Proposal 1: Eurocup**

If less than 20% of competitors at a Eurocup race come from abroad, the Eurocup fee will be reduced to 50€. (i.e. >20% foreign competitors = 150€ fee; <20% foreign competitors = 50€ fee)

Rationale: The Eurocup was created to encourage mushers to participate in races abroad and to increase attendance levels at races. However, if a race is attended by less than 20% of foreign mushers, the Eurocup loses value.

Furthermore, we propose that the Board finds new ways to encourage more mushers to participate in the Eurocup.

Invalid because at topic 11 the Eurocup was replaced by Worldcup.

- **Proposal 2: Transportation**

We propose to amend the WSA transport guidelines as follows:

1. If a musher is resident in a member state of the European Union, the musher has to adhere to the laws on animal transportation of his country of residence. This rule is only valid if the country of residence's law is in compliance with the EU rules (Council Regulation (EC) No1/2005).
2. If a musher is resident outside the European Union, he has to adhere to the WSA transport guidelines for the transportation of his dogs.

Rationale: Within the European Union all member states have implemented a clear set of national laws governing the transportation of animals. We propose this amendment to the rules to avoid mushers having to implement changes to their dog boxes that might be contradicting their national laws.

Proposal 2 was rejected by the assembly with a clear majority

- **Proposal 3: Veterinary Working Group**

We propose the establishment of a Veterinary Working Group. Every member club is entitled to put their veterinarian forward as a member of this Working Group. The objective of the Group is to create guidelines and a historical veterinary memory for championships. Two members of this Group have to be present at every championship to coordinate the local veterinary team.

Proposal 3 was accepted by the assembly with a absolut majority

- **2. Proposals DSO, Netherlands:**

1. If a country has more than one WSA member club the combined number of members should be used to determine the number of starters that the country can send to a European or World Championship. The allocated number of starters for such a country should then be divided between its member clubs in accordance with the number of members of each club.

Proposal 1 was accepted by the assembly with a clear majority

2. To allow mushers to plan their racing season, the organizers of a European or World Championship have to provide at the signing of the contract a date and an alternative date/place for the Championship. Should it not be possible for the Championship to take place on either date there will be no WSA Championship during that season. Nobody will be allowed to organize an alternative event that carries the name WSA (European or World) Championship during such a season.

Proposal 2 was withdrawn by DSO because of the fact that the president reports that the proposal is already a point of the championship contract

3. The DSO would like to propose to make it mandatory for all members of WSA member clubs to register themselves using the WSA Race Data site irrespective of whether they are planning on participating in a Championship. Members registering themselves will have to be confirmed as members by the board of the member club. This will give the WSA a better handle on the number of members a club has and membership numbers will be up to date at all times.

Proposal 3 was as well withdrawn by DSO because of the fact that a working group was formed to find a good solution for National Qutas as well as votes as well as fees and will be presented as soon as possible.

- **3. Proposals NSHK, Norway:**
- **Proposal 1:**

Host countries of WSA races should get information and have access to previous contract and terms agreed between the WSA board and previous hosts.

Rationale: Being a professional organisation, there should be no secrets or doubts about a host country's conditions, and they should be equal for all member countries. We should ensure that all member countries have the same conditions and obligations when hosting, and even considering hosting, a WSA race.

After explanation of secretary and president that Norway already was be informed before about all terms and that they have e-mails which prove this - the proposal was withdrawn by NSHK.

- **Proposal 2:**

The number of delegates for international races should be in comparison to the number of paying members each country is registered with in WSA

Rationale: The number of race delegates is regulated in our statues, and the same principle should be followed if a race has a reduced capacity. We suggest that our statues are adjusted, so the number of delegates is following the same percentage of delegates as paying members of each country. As an alternative, if the purpose is to reduce the number of delegates from one of the countries with a high number of members, the same principles should be followed for all countries in the same category, to ensure a democratic distribution.

Proposal 2 was as well withdrawn by NSHK because of the fact that a board working group was formed to find a good solution for National Qutas as well as votes as well as fees and will be presented as soon as possible.

- **4. Proposals VDSV, Germany:**
- **Proposal 1:**

Proposal to increase the entry fees for international WSA championships (WC/EC) to €150.

Rationale: The current amount of €90 is out-dated. €90 don't provide hosts with enough money to cover the costs of organising an international championship. We cannot expect hosts to subsidise a championship with funds of their own.

Withdrawn per mail from 25th of July 2016 from VDSV

- **Proposal 2:**

The WSA Board is currently made up of 11 members. In order for it to be more agile, we propose to eliminate the position of Director Pulka/Skijöring.

Rationale: The role of Director Pulka/ Skijöring is no longer needed as only a minority of mushers' race in these classes. The interest of these mushers can be better protected and co-ordinated by the Director Sport or the Director Sprint.

Withdrawn per mail from 25th of July 2016 from VDSV

- **Proposal 3:**

The WSA Board is currently made up of 11 members. In order for it to be more agile, we propose to eliminate the position of Veterinary/ Anti-Doping.

Rationale: Having the position of Veterinary on the Board can lead to conflicts of interests as the veterinary cannot wear two hats. He cannot be at the same time on the WSA Board in a voluntary capacity while having commercial interests in anti-doping and animal welfare and acting as the national association's veterinarian.

Accusations of deriving a personal advantage could arise, which in the interest of the WSA has to be avoided at all cost.

Withdrawn per mail from 25th of July 2016 from VDSV

- **Proposal 4:**

The WSA Board is currently made up of 11 members. In order for it to be more agile, we propose to eliminate the position of Director Public Relations.

Rationale: The Director Public Relations currently looks after the website. This could be awarded externally. All other PR activities should be driven by the directors of the various disciplines.

Withdrawn per mail from 25th of July 2016 from VDSV

- **Proposal 5:**

We propose that from 2018 onwards, European championships should be organised exclusively under the lead of and in collaboration with ESDRA. Key is a purebred ranking and European Champion title.

Rationale:

1. This is the best solution for the sport as a whole.
2. Secures the purebred sled dog sport.
3. Achieves integration within the European sled dog sport and justifies our exceptional place in the world.
4. Strengthens the class sizes.
5. Huge reduction in costs.
6. Upgrades the standing of the title, as only one European Champion.
7. Appearance of a national team.
8. Part of why we engage in sport is to make new friends and to bring together people.
9. Promotion of a joint sled dog sport.
10. Formation and appearance of a unified national team.
11. Experience of a large event (6 days)
12. Unites the sled dog sport scene.

Withdrawn by VDSV in the assembly .

Topic 17 - Any Other Business (AOB)

1. Appointment of Franky De Backer and Rudiger de Pauw as official WSA-Race Judges – they both did all the requirements as Arno Steichler reported.

The assembly accepted Franky de Backer and Rudiger De Pauw as official Race Judges with a clear majority

1. Formation of a working group in the board to find a solution of the worked up orders - Nation Quotas, Annex about votes, delegates, etc.

The formed group consists of Michael, Christoph, Cindy, Christian, and Manuela They will present as soon as possible their suggestions..

The assembly welcomed this with a clear majority.

1. Lauf Dryland – members will be informed soon about registration

Written by Secretary - Manuela Petutschnig

Signed by President - Arno Steichler