

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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Minutes of the meeting of the FCI Sighthound Racing Commission

Venue: Akzent Hotel, Ambassador, D-06749 Bitterfeld-Wolfen
Date: Friday, 21 June 2013
Start: 9 a.m.

Delegates present:

Austria	Mr. A. Huschka	
Belgium	Mr. H. Iser	
Czech Republic	Ms. V. Kucerova-Chrpova	
Denmark	Ms. K. Jansz	
Finland	Mr. M. Nyman	
Germany	Mr. M. Haas	(Chairman)
Hungary	Mr. L. Miklós	
Italy	Mr. L. Leandri	
Netherlands	Ms. A. Will	
Norway	Mr. S. Mathisen	
Poland	Mr. A. Bilinski	
Russia	Ms. I. Korshunova	
Sweden	Mr. J. Hedberg	
Switzerland	Mr. K. Allemann	

Excused:

France
Ireland
Slovakia
F.C.I. Mr. G. Jipping

Absent without notification:

Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Estonia
Morocco
Slovenia

Secretary Mr. H. Hendricks

1. Greeting and information

Mr. Haas welcomed the delegates to Bitterfeld on behalf of the German national canine organisation and opened the meeting. He explained his personal reasons for no longer wishing to be available as Chairman of the Commission. There then followed a brief summary of the years of his Chairmanship.

2. Approval of the minutes from Mont de Marsan (31.08.2012)

Remarks / amendments:

- ITEM 2 (approval of the minutes from Beringen – 02.09.2011): France had made a written request to amend the following sentence: “Mr. Martin (F) asked for it to be noted in the minutes that the proposal to no longer allow closed circuits (with closed loop string dragged along the ground) had not been submitted by France **but, rather, by Germany.**

- ITEM 6 (introduction of a Sand Track Champions League as F.C.I. title): Ms. Will (NL) reported that the working group set up in 2012 had not worked. Mr. Haas stated that he had asked for approval at the sports club conference in Germany to run this Champions League. The motion was withdrawn, as the organising associations did not want other associations to be involved.

- ITEM 4 – Schedule 2013:

Mr. Martin (F) will not be available as CdL representative for the 2013 European Championships in Versoix. Mr. Andreas Huschka (A) offered to take on this assignment. The delegates agreed.

3. Election of new Chairman

Mr. Iser (B) put himself forward as a candidate. Mr. Haas asked whether anyone else wished to be a candidate. Mr. Iser was elected unanimously in the written ballot. He thanked the delegates for their trust and confidence and said there were three topics that he wanted to devote particular attention to:

- responsibility and respect for the breed standards;
- animal well-being;
- sportsmanship and fairness in our sport.

Mr. Iser asked Mr. Haas to continue chairing the meeting.

4. Election of new Secretary

Mr. Hendricks stated that, after 40 years of active involvement in sighthound racing, he would now like to take things a bit easier. He also felt that, with the election of Mr. Iser, the Belgian influence could be too much with both the Chairman and the Secretary coming from Belgium. Mr. Hendricks would still take the minutes for the present meeting and also be available for the drawing up of the schedule for 2014. There had not been any prior notification of candidates. Ms. Kucerova-Chrpova (CZ) responded to the question from Mr. Haas whether there were any candidates. In the written ballot, she received 8 votes in favour and 6 against. Mr. Kucerova-Chrpova accepted the vote and asked Mr. Hendricks to assist her with her work.

5. Schedule 2014

Mr. Hendricks pointed out that, on account of the decision to bring the CdL meeting forward to the European Coursing Championships, the present procedure for putting together the schedule would no longer work.

Years ago, FCI Circular 4-2000 had stipulated by when and to whom the proposals were to be submitted. He said he would send the delegates a copy of this circular and suggested:

- to keep 15 August as the latest date for national motions;
- national delegates not submitting dates by one week prior to that date to be sent a reminder;
- draft schedule to be sent to the delegates shortly after 15 August. They will then have 8 days to convey any comments, improvements or wishes to the Secretary;
- definitive schedule for next season to be sent to the delegates by 1 September at the latest.

Mr. Hendricks asked that special attention be paid to NOT publishing the draft schedule. Every year, there was someone who wants to make a scoop, which only causes confusion.

Mr. Iser (B) felt that the CdL should not approve any more international dates that clash with F.C.I. title events.

Mr. Leandri (I) handed over a statement in which Italy withdrew its candidacy for the organisation of the 2014 European Coursing Championships. There were no other candidates willing to assume responsibility for this event, which meant that the CdL was forced to cancel the 2014 European Coursing Championships. Mr. Iser appealed for information in this regard to be forwarded to the CdL as quickly as possible. He also intended asking delegates for their views on certain matters via email in order bring forward possible decisions, which would then have to be ratified at the next meeting. *(Remark by the Secretary: the very next day, Mr. Iser was asked by Italian dog owners whether they could make another attempt at putting on a European Championship event in 2014. This attempt is supported by the ENCI, according to a letter that was received. Mr. Iser has set a deadline date of 15 August in this regard)*

Year	Event	Country	Commission delegate
2014	Coursing EC	?	Mr. Allemann (CH)
	Racing WC	Finland	Ms. Will (NL)
2015	Coursing	Finland	Mr. Hedberg (S)
	Racing	Germany	Mr. Hendricks (B)

In view of the huge number of entries for the 2013 European Coursing Championships, there was a further discussion on additional measures for limiting entry. One idea would be to no longer admit Group 5 dogs and share our knowledge and experience with contacts from that group so that they can organise their own European Championship.

It would be useful if applications for title events were forwarded to the CdL as soon as possible. Mr. Hendricks felt that a type of "bid book", as used for the Olympic Games, for example, could make the CdL's decision easier.

6. Proposal by France: DNA samples

The wording of the French proposal was not yet available. Mr. Iser (B) explained that representatives of the SCC had been to SRSH in Brussels to find out what procedure was used in Belgium to collect, analyse and utilise DNA samples.

If not already done, Mr. Iser (B) asked the delegates to request their kennel clubs to introduce DNA samples as proof of parenthood. This would be a first step, irrespective of scientific developments, towards proving the purity of a breed and eliminating ancestral falsification.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Whippet sizes

Although the immediate cause for the discussion concerned pictures of dogs from the Czech Republic that had been published on the Internet, the problem is much more widespread. Dogs are competing in events in every country, whereby questions can be asked about their size. Mr. Miklós (H) wondered what we really wanted, saying that Whippet dogs currently measure more 53 – 54 cm rather than 51 cm.

Mr. Iser (B) felt that all the delegates should bear responsibility in their respective countries for such measurements to be carried out correctly as well as each country being responsible for ensuring that only dogs of a correct height at the withers are entered for title events. Only in this way can equal opportunities be guaranteed for all dogs. In most cases, size and weight are directly combined with each other in this regard, which can pose a threat for smaller competitors.

Following the discussion, the following resolutions were adopted:

- all whippets and Italian greyhounds entered for the European Championships in Versoix are to be measured again. Mr. Allemann had prepared a text, which was accepted by the delegates.
- a certain amount of tolerance is to be applied on account of the perhaps unusual procedure of measuring the dogs on a racing circuit.

The item concerning “oversized dogs” was deferred to the next meeting. Mr. Iser (B) was also to prepare a discussion topic by then with regard to deviations from the breed standards in relation to application in our sport. It was considered necessary to make an inventory in this regard. Mr. Hedberg (S) proposed that a framework be developed for this purpose.

b. Inquiry with regard to enabling Podenco Portugues to compete in our (title) events. The issue concerning Group 5 had already been touched on in ITEM 5. Mr. Iser felt he should first discuss this with the FCI. To be listed as an agenda item for the next meeting.

c. CACIL and S&L: The Netherlands applied for the current rules to be adjusted. This application had not been submitted in time, however, with the result that it would not be dealt with until the next meeting. Mr. Iser asked Ms. Will for an English translation.

d. Switzerland asked a question regarding the minimum number of entries in coursing events, especially where lesser known breeds are concerned. Mr. Iser replied that the CdL only dealt with international racing and coursing events; the countries should regulate such matters at national level. In the case of breeds where there was no competition in one’s own country, it might be possible to use an equivalent dog of another breed.

e. Revoked titles of Deerhound Calhoun O’Cocaigne (2009 European Coursing Championships):

The Netherlands felt that it was wrong that this title had been revoked and requested that this decision be annulled. In response to a question from Ms. Will, Mr. Haas denied that he had received a letter from the FCI concerning this matter.

It was established that the dog had been issued with a coursing licence by the Dutch Racing Commission before it had reached the age of 18 months. In contravention of the Dutch rule, according to which the minimum age for entering event is 18 months, the owner entered the dog in two national coursing events in France, where dogs can compete with a valid licence from the age of 15 months. These two coursing events were rated as qualification coursing events for the European Coursing Championships.

In the discussion, it was noted that it was really a Dutch problem on account of that country having registered the dog for the European Championships without further ado. On the initiative of the Netherlands, the international rule was later amended by paragraph 4.7.3, under which qualification runs carried out before the minimum age limit stipulated in paragraph 1.4.2 are adjudged to be invalid.

Following the vote of 11 against, 1 in favour and 2 abstentions, it was decided not to send a proposal to the FCI for this title to be re-awarded to Calhoun.

f. Mr. Miklós (H) proposed that title races should only be held on sand tracks. Mr. Iser replied that a sand track title had been discussed in Mont de Marsan. Since it had become clear that such a title cannot be awarded under the conditions proposed, those taking this initiative have withdrawn their proposal. If only sand tracks were to become eligible, this would discriminate against grass tracks. Injuries occur on all types of tracks; it is just that they differ in nature.

g. Mr. Miklós (H) regretted that dogs taking part in racing or coursing have to submit a show certificate before the CACIL title is awarded. Conversely, no sporting achievement is required prior to a dog being awarded the beauty title.

Mr. Iser (B) asked Mr. Miklós to make an application via the Secretary.

h. Ms. Kucerova-Chrpova (CZ) asked whether it would be useful to take the veterinary surgeon along as an advisor for the final approval of a coursing circuit. The outcome of the discussion was that the organiser of a coursing event bears a certain responsibility for the quality of the course and the safety of the dogs. With our coursing, we try to imitate the hunt and this simply does not take place on a closely mowed surface with all the uneven patches removed. A certain risk always remains and not even the vet will be able to eliminate this.

i. Mr. Mathisen (NOR) reported that sighthound owners from two countries had complained to him about the selection of entrants for the European Championships. It can only be emphasised that fairness is also extremely important in this national matter. Efforts must be made to ensure that the best dogs are able to compete in the European Championships.

j. Mr. Allemann (CH) regretted that there was no complete list of coursing judges. Mr. Iser (B) said that there is a possibility at the HP of the FCI for national associations to publish their lists of judges. He was of the view that judges did not apply to track racing, rather only the referee.

8. Conclusion

Mr. Iser thanked Mr. Haas and Mr. Hendricks for their work, their dedication and their commitment. Mr. Hendricks asked to speak again. He referred to the classification of our race tracks. Previously, when it was a matter of obtaining authorisation for international races, measurements and evaluation were carried out by the UICL Race Committee. In the present situation, this assessment is entrusted to the national bodies, with no guarantee that all the race tracks are checked according to the same standards. We have an obligation to the dogs and their owners to provide them with the best conditions. The moment an event is listed in the FCI schedule, this must imply that the dogs are provided with a safe race track, and with reasonable accommodation for the owners. A catalogue of requirements is the very least the CdL should come up with in this regard. On-site checks by independent experts should definitely be recommended. Special attention should also be given to an aptitude test for the organisation of FCI title races. The CdL unfortunately does not have the financial resources to carry out such a test.

Mr. Iser replied that, in his view, race tracks used for the European/World Championships should all be checked and felt that Mr. Hendricks was the right person for this. The FCI should really support this endeavour and pay the expenses. He said he would speak to Mr. Declerq in this regard.

On account of the (current) cancellation of the 2014 European Coursing Championships, it was decided to hold the next meeting in Tampere (FIN) on Friday, 5 September 2014

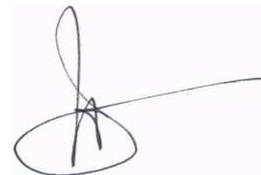
Agenda items for the meeting:

1. Greeting and information
2. Approval of the minutes from Bitterfeld 2013
3. Ratification of interim resolutions
4. Schedule 2015
5. Oversized whippets and Italian greyhounds
6. Deviations from breed standards
7. Admission of Group 5 dogs (European Coursing Championships)
8. Proposal by the Netherlands: CACIL
9. Proposal by Hungary: conditions for CACIL / CACIB
10. Miscellaneous

**Other agenda items to be
submitted by
5 Juni 2014**

Kinrooi, 25.07.2013

Schaffen, 25.07.2013



Hubert Iser, CdL Chairman

Henk Hendricks