

**Minutes of the 10th WAFDAL meeting of delegates
on Friday 20th of May 2011 in Salzburg/Austria
organised by the Austrian Dalmatian Club**

The meeting was held in Hotel Schlosswirt zu Anif.
Chairman: mr. Frans De Ridder from Belgium

Present were:

Committee members:

Frans De Ridder (B), Agnes Klein (D-DDC), Ursula Voitle (A), Annemiek Morgans (NL)

Delegates/commission members:

Inger Hagbohm and Lena Erlandsson from Sweden, Tyge Greibrokk, Arild Harjèn and Aase Jakobsen from Norway, Eija Tähtinen from Finland, Liliane de Ridder from Belgium, Patrick Hultink and Rhys Morgans from the Netherlands, Josef Fertig, Christoph Derieth, Herbert Nagel and Elke Langanke from Germany (DDC), Gerd Herbst and Helge Hilpert from Germany (CDF), Jürgen Rotsch from Germany (DVD), Christina Zehnder and Chantal Baumgartner from Switzerland, Tryn E. Borckenstein from Austria, Pia Pedercini from Italy, Zeljko Radic from Croatia (Atila Dubac), Nenad Devic from Serbia, Radana Zachova from Czechia and Cathie McCarthy from the UK (BDC).

Special guests:

from the USA: mrs. Denise Powell (info LUA Dalmatians)

from Russia: mrs. Irina Petrakova

Absent were:

Absent with notice:

Sally Ann Clegg and Dominique Vincent from France,
delegates from the Croatian Dalmatian Club HKPDP 'DALMATINAC' and the Dalmatian Club of Cuba.

Absent without notice:

Delegates from the Danish Dalmatian Club, the Hungarian Dalmatian Club and the North of England Dalmatian Club.

1. Arrival of the participants

At 9.00 o'clock chairman Frans De Ridder opened the meeting, welcoming all delegates, committee members and guests and thanking the Austrian Dalmatian Club for being prepared to take over the organization of the WAFDAL event 2011 at the very last moment. There were congratulations for the 40 years anniversary of the Austrian Dalmatian Club.

2. Welcome from the Austrian Dalmatian Club

Mrs. Ursula Voitle expressed a warm welcome from the Austrian Dalmatian Club and said to be happy that all managed to find their way to Salzburg.

3. Presentation of the delegates from the member-clubs and observer-clubs

All delegates and committee members introduced themselves. Patrick Hultink, the NL delegate, made a statement, that the Dutch Dalmatian Club due to very serious and financial problems, had not been able to organize WAFDAL 2011; that he realizes that the NCDH caused breach of confidence but hopes that the Dutch club will be able to organize a WAFDAL event in the near future.

4. Chairman's report (F. De Ridder)

Frans de Ridder was happy to announce that the official agreement between the WAFDAL and FCI is a fact; that it had been a long process and that finally on top of this, the signed contracts were lost in the (registered) post!; that all is behind us and WAFDAL now has an official status since 27 January 2011.

The chairman stated that having three official languages within WAFDAL, is a very time consuming process, and, as there is only one French club, proposed to have only two languages in the future: English and German. The meeting agreed. This will be a point for the agenda for the next meeting.

The chairman announced this was his last meeting with him as president, due to serious health problems; that he has an excellent team of medical specialists, but that they can not give any guarantee for the future. He thanked everybody for their work and support in the past, in particular Tyge Greibrokk and Annemiek Morgans. He announced that he would be available for advice and support in the future. A standing ovation followed.

5. Secretary's report (A. Morgans)

Minutes of the Meeting of Delegates in 2009 and the Secretary's Report 2007-2009. Written reports had been sent out before. There were no remarks and the reports were agreed upon.

6. Treasurer's report (A. Klein)

The treasurer's report was handed out (see written report). The actual bank account per 12-05-2011 is € 13.207,87. Paid membership fees for 2011 is € 1540,00. Still open: € 2930,00. There is still a debit from the DDC of € 446,50 to the WAFDAL. This brings the total account to € 16.584,37. Jürgen Rotsch and Tryn Borckenstein asked the treasurer about the big amount of unpaid membership fees. The payment requests for the membership fees 2011 and the reminders for the previous years had been sent out in the beginning of May, according to the treasurer. After a discussion it was concluded this was far too late and should have been done very much earlier. Liliane de Ridder proposed to publish the names of the clubs with payment areas. The chairman urgently requested to have a quicker reaction to unpaid fees. Concerning the open post of the DDC (costs paid by the WAFDAL for a delegate of the DDC), Christoph Derieth assured that, due to a decision of the AGM of the DDC, these costs would be paid as soon as possible. Remark was that procedures had been delayed due to the death of mr. Ronneburg and the transference of the financial affairs. Liliane De Ridder suggested that at the end of every year a list should be sent out for the numbers of members per club to be noted, so that the membership fee could be regulated. It was also asked to make the WAFDAL bank account number to be clearer.

Elke Langanke (webmaster) said that she found the domain registration costs were too high and in order to reduce these costs, that the registration should not go via an own WAFDAL website but via her own website registration.

Herbert Nagel (auditor) presented his report over the financial control, where all the amounts were found to be correct and the bookkeeping had been correctly presented. A number of questions were answered and the auditor was thanked for his work. The meeting agreed positively to the way in which the bookkeeping had been made, but wished to see more activity as to the receiving of the membership fees. The delegates gave their approval to both financial reports. Eija Tähtinen asked if it was possible to receive the financial papers in English in advance of the meeting in the future.

7. Membership matters

There have not been any new candidates for membership. Zeljko Radic said to be very happy with WAFDAL as an organization and proposed to use big events like international shows to try to collect new members. Rhys Morgans suggested to motivate breeders and owners to put a link to the WAFDAL website on their own websites.

8. Health and Breeding Committee report (T. Greibrokk)

See written report by Tyge Greibrokk.

Mega-oesophagus: Only two cases had been reported since the last meeting. So far there is no reason for drastic measures.

Epilepsy: No reports of cases.

Deafness: Stephanie Yates and Gerd Herbst subjected the following: ‘Prof Dr. med. Vet. Ottmar Distl of TiHo Hannover presented a test to fight deafness, based on the calculation of the genomic breeding value with the help of a blood sample. In 2009 during a meeting in Hannover between the German Dalmatian Clubs DDC, CDF and the NCDH (Netherlands) and Prof. Distl, it was agreed upon a minimum number of 200 dogs taking part in this test, namely 140 dogs from the DDC and about 80 dogs from the CDF and other clubs. This test was finally conducted in 2010, with only 70 dogs taking part, exclusively from the CDF. For these dogs there is a genomic breeding value. It is deplorable that the feedback from the other clubs is so low.’

Tyge Greibrokk’s report shows a very small improvement in reducing deafness (figures are based on reports from the German and Dutch clubs) and a small increase in the occurrence of patches.

Cathie McCarthy: Recently the English Kennel Club decided that some patching is acceptable for breeding, dogs with small patches are not supposed to be excluded. Radana Zachova asked what this means for judges at shows: how should dogs with patches be regarded in the showing? This question will be referred to the Judging committee.

9. Judging Committee report (L. de Ridder-Onghena)

Liliane de Ridder: ‘I did not send any paper from the judges commission as the reason is, this commission is more a kind of a ‘guard dog’. When necessary they will start to overlook and evaluate a problem or situation, but they surely don’t have the intention to create problems. We are aware of the fact that it could be most interesting to organize a lecture or presentation of the breed standard and open to all judges to participate. But let us be realistic. Most of the judges only will come if they have together with the invitation a judging appointment and only will do the travelling, when it is fully repaid... We realize that nowadays the number of group judges and allrounders is highly increasing and we regret that a lot of National Kennel Clubs or show organizations are simply neglecting more and more to invite the breed specialist judges. I always considered it necessary to have a perfect balance between the two. During the past months I received some remarks and these points will be surely put on the next meeting.

- Temperament problems in the breed
- Size: how far can be the tolerance?
- The importance of a correct spotting
- ‘patches’ and this especially regarding the new English Kennel Club standard and the actual health recommendations of the English Kennel Club. Ears: Marking well broken up, preferably spotted. Colour: Some patching on ears or head not to be penalized. (UK Kennel Club Dalmatian Breed Standard, last updated November 2010)

Josef Fertig suggested preference to be given to type and movement during the discussions.

10. Website report (E. Langanke)

As new webmaster Elke Langanke created a new website two years ago and said to have no time for regular updates: This should be done by the committee members themselves and she would only assist with technical problems. Elke would like to promote the WAFDAL and said to have the technical knowledge to do more on Facebook and Twitter. The meeting agreed with this. It was suggested to use the data of the Finnish Dalmatian Club and to use a positive public relations effort to improve the image of our breed. Frans de Ridder offered his help with the maintenance of the website.

Tyge expressed his wish to have a webmaster who has full control of the website.

11. Proposal for a change in the statutes:

‘Rules and Regulations of the WAFDAL’ point 6. New version (additions underlined):

6. The committee

- a) The committee consists of
 - the chairman
 - the vice-chairman
 - the secretary

- the treasurer
 - a person appointed by the club that organizes the following WAFDAL meeting and show.
- b) The chairmen of the subcommittees can, if necessary, be called in by the committee in an advisory function.
- c) The committee is elected by the MD for the period between the general meetings. Re-election is possible.
- d) The vice-chairman has the same responsibilities as the chairman, when the last is absent.

The meeting of delegates agreed unanimously.

12.Elections At present the positions are occupied by:

WAFDAL committee: chairman: Frans De Ridder , secretary: Annemiek Morgans, treasurer: Agnes Klein and member: Ursula Voitle, representing the club, organising the WAFDAL event.

Auditor: Herbert Nagel

Health and Breeding Committee: chairman: Tyge Greibrokk. Members: Rhys Morgans, dr. Dominique Vincent, Lena Erlandsson, Sally Ann Clegg and Charlotte Jenvall.

Judging committee: chairman: Liliane de Ridder-Onghena. Members: Aase Jakobsen and Ivana Bakal.

During the meeting Frans de Ridder expressed his wish not to continue in his function as president due to health reasons. Annemiek Morgans and Agnes Klein expressed their wishes not to be re-elected. Ursula Voitle is retiring and not to be re-elected. Her function will be taken over by a delegate of the club, organizing the next WAFDAL event in 2013. Tyge Greibrokk proposed himself as a candidate for the chairmanship and expressed his wish to work together with Liliane de Ridder as vice-chairman and Annemiek Morgans as secretary. Under the circumstances both said they were available. Gerhard Herbst said he would be available as treasurer. All candidates were elected. The DDC will appoint a committee member in June this year, representing the next organizer of the WAFDAL event 2013. Josef Fertig was chosen as the new financial auditor.

Health and Breeding Committee: Lena Erlandsson was elected as the new chairman of the commission. The following members were (re)elected: Sally Ann Clegg, Dominique Vincent, Rhys Morgans, Charlotte Jenvall and Ursula Voitle.

Judging committee: As new chairman Aase Jakobsen was chosen. As members were (re)elected: Liliane de Ridder, Ivana Bakal, Christoph Derieth and Josef Fertig.

Webmaster: Elke Langanke remained in her function for technical updates and website administration. Due to his major efforts for the WAFDAL, Jürgen Rotsch proposed Frans de Ridder to be elected as **honorary president**. This was accepted with great applause.

13 Health and Breeding issues / NUA (Normal Uric Acid) Dalmatians

The chairman introduced this subject: At the WAFDAL meeting in 2009 in Oslo this project was brought to the attention for the first time. The introduction of a Pointer into the Dalmatian breeding in 1973 in the USA was seen as a possibility to breed Dalmatians with a low or normal Uric Acid Level (LUA or NUA Dalmatians) See websites: www.luadalmatians.com and www.dalmatianheritage.com/about/schaible_research.htm and www.thedca.org/backcrossreview.html The siblings from this combination were registered by the United Kennel Club (UKC), which unlike the American Kennel Club (AKC) is not recognized by the FCI. The LUA Dalmatians were crossed with pure-bred Dalmatians. Selection of breeding stock from the progeny found place by controlling the uric acid levels of the dogs. In the meantime we are 12 generations further.

Denise Powell from the USA gave an update as to the current situation. At the moment there are about 11 breeders working in the project with 70 NUA Dalmatians. Leaders in the project are making an effort to get the LUA Dalmatians recognised by the AKC. This has caused many long discussions in the various American Dalmatian Clubs and the AKC. Coming June there will be a vote as to the recognition of the LUA Dalmatians. By eventual recognition by the AKC there will follow an

automatic recognition by the FCI, where these dogs can also be registered in the European studbooks. At the moment there are three imports in Europe: 2 in the UK and 1 in France.

The chairman asked if there were any plans for a new crossing program with a Pointer in order to increase the gene pool Denise Powell: The investment has been very high and there are no plans to do more Pointer crossings. In the project breeders are trying also to eradicate the blue eye factor and all dogs are BAER tested. It requires a great effort from the breeders and willingness to invest financially. There will only be bred from NUA or LUA dogs, all others will remain as pets.

Frans de Ridder asked the Health and Breeding committee to have attention for this project. The delegates from Switzerland asked why so much effort should be taken for, in their opinion, a relatively small problem. (Forming of urate stones)

14.Planned actions for next 2 years / Proposals of dates and places for future WAFDAL meetings

- As agreed in the previous meeting the next WAFDAL meeting, congress and show will take place in Germany (DDC) in 2013.
- Candidates for 2015 are the Czech Dalmatian Club, the Croatian Dalmatian Club 'Atila Dubac' and the Club Amici Dalmata from Italy. The three candidates gave a short introduction. Pia Pedercini pleaded for the Italian Dalmatian Club as a candidate in combination with the Worldshow 2015 in Milan. Ursula Voitle reminded every one that the WAFDAL event in 2003 took place in San Remo and in 2007 in Zagreb. There followed a vote: 17 votes for Czechia, 7 votes for Croatia and 1 vote for Italy. The WAFDAL event 2015 will be held in Czechia.

The chairman referred to an earlier made agreement as to the choice of judges for the WAFDAL show: The organizing club should not take judges from their own country, and the choice of judges should be taken in accordance with the WAFDAL committee.

15.Diverse questions

Tryn E. Borckenstein: asked special attention for the World Show 2012 in Salzburg in combination with a Clubshow. With enough entries, special arrangements could be arranged in the hotels.

Eija Tähtinen: suggested a co-operation between the clubmagazines of the WAFDAL members and an exchange of questions and answers, as an easy way of getting to know each other better. The idea was supported but there came no volunteers to do the job. It was agreed upon that the Finnish Dalmatian Club would come with ideas, so that this could be worked upon together with the webmaster Elke Langanke. Liliane de Ridde: suggested to exchange clubmagazines.

Out of the meeting there also came a proposal to set up a WAFDAL Dalmatian breeding database, similar to that of the Finnish Kennel Club (all breeds).

Lena Erlandsson referred to the websites of the Scandinavian Kennel Clubs, also with databases for all breeds.

Irina Petrakova said she had started a Dalmatian database and kindly offered the information available to the WAFDAL. See the link to the Russian pedigree database. <http://dalmatin-club.ru/pdb/search.html> including more than 30.000 Dalmatians.

With all this possible information it was seen not necessary for the WAFDAL to start its own database.

16.Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 15.45 by the new chairman Tyge Greibrokk with a special word of thanks to Frans de Ridder. He also thanked every one for their positive contribution and wished all a good journey home.

Vollenhove, August 2011
Annemiek Morgans