



## **Report from the WAFDAL Webmasters , Andrea Theuerkauf-Höppner**

### New version / Re-Design of the website

I've been ask in May 2015, following the WAFDAL meeting in Prague, if I could help with the set up of a new WAFDAL website. I agreed to support in this matter. The aim was to give the website a more state of the art fitting, which would be easy to maintain and as well adaptive to mobile use. My proposal was to use the Joomla system which is a content/editorial management tool. It allows ease of use even to persons who are not familiar with working with websites and who have no programming knowledge.

In the end of June 2015, I was able to supply the first layouts and ideas to the WAFDAL committee in order to get feedbacks. Mrs. Voitle was the first to come back with feedback, and shortly afterwards Mr. Fertig followed with his remarks. In majority, the proposal was accepted. I've not gotten any feedback from the other committee members. As we were short on time, and there were no objections, we continued with the implementation of the proposal. Mrs. Voitle supplied me with lots of content and we could make progress as expected in the project. In the meantime I got numerous additional contents, updates on existing content which were as well included by me to the existing (old) website. Unfortunately, at the time, Mr. Rhys Morgan was not able to make adjustments to the old website anymore, due to his health situation.

It was the plan to train Rhys Morgan in the maintenance of the new tool after the finalization of the new website, in order to allow him to do the necessary updates himself in the future. As his health situation prevented him from further engagement, he asked me to take officially over as new WAFDAL webmaster. I agreed to this request, and was confirmed as new webmaster by the WAFDAL committee.

In September 2015 we shut down the old WAFDAL website and put the new one online. Of course there have been some operational issues at first, as the norwegian provider of the website has everything in norwegian language and it was quite difficult to navigate around in their customer area. One remark – god bless google translation!

As I have been included in the emailing list concerning the website, I've been always informed if there were any issues with the provider "Uniweb" from Norway. There have been some problems concerning invoices and misunderstandings with regards to the amounts invoiced and transferred. As the situation got more and more complicated, I made the proposal to switch to another website provider with our [www.wafdal.org](http://www.wafdal.org) domain, in order to ease handling. As new provider, I suggested Strato from Germany, as I have made very good experiences working with them for years. As a result, it has been decided to remain for one more year with the provider from Norway as the domain was already prepaid, and then switch to Strato in the following year.



The switch of the domain from Uniweb to Strato was in the beginning more complicated than at first anticipated. Normally, such a switch takes a week's time at max, but not in the WAFDAL case unfortunately.

I opened up a customer account at Strato on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 and made a request to switch the WAFDAL domain from Uniweb to Strato. In order to make this happen, the old domain holder (Uniweb) must agree to the switch, there were some language barriers which complicated the joint understanding and many emails were going back and forth from Norway to Germany to Norway. Finally, almost one month later on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2016, the switch to Strato was finalized.

The invoices from Strato for the domain hosting are managed by automated debit.

### News

The aim is to have the WAFDAL website always updated with the newest content, information and contact data. Unfortunately, this is not yet always the case, as we need to urgently improve our joint cooperation and data exchange to keep the website on track. Examples:

- Changes in member club committees (persons, email, addresses) are often not communicated to WAFDAL. However, there are some good exceptions from clubs who do communicate us if there are changes locally.
- The possibility to announce shows on the WAFDAL website is not used enough. Dates and details are often not communicated. At the moment only a few clubs are using this offering: ÖDaC, SDC, CDF, DDC and the club from Slovakia
- Not all pages are available in English and German yet. Translations are still needed for several topics.
- Content should be intensified and enlarged, especially what concerns contents and articles with regards to health topics

### Final remark

In general, I think the website development is on a good way, even if there are still a lot of improvements needed. I would like to thank all persons contributing to the development of the website, especially Mrs. Ursula Voitle. It is due to her persistence and effort that a lot of progress has been made.

I am totally aware that WAFDAL is group of volunteers and all persons involved have a lot of different things to do in their lives, and therefore sometimes we need to be a bit patient when waiting for input or responses. Again, Ursula Voitle did a great job in reminding us our home works and coordinating our to-do's.

To close, please find a short overview on the statistics concerning page visits during the last months. More detailed statistics are available at Strato, but would be too much detail for now.

Kind regards

Andrea Theuerkauf-Höppner, May 11th, 2017