

Greetings

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Dear Friends of the German Shepherd Dog from all over the world:

This year's WUSV Universal Championship will take us to England – the quaint and hospitable country with millennia-old tradition and history to look back on is well known as the nation of pet lovers in every respect of the word. Not only is this the first time we will enjoy the hospitality that England is so well known for – also we are honored to share the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German Shepherd Dog League of Great Britain that was established as early as in 1919 – a true challenge particularly in these times. With just under 600 members not a very big organization. It is small but excellent, with a powerful team truly dedicated to the cause of the German Shepherd Dog breed.

The event has required long-term planning in every respect of the word and we began as early as 2014 when we engaged in the first preparations. By that time nobody knew or would have believed that a movement we refer to as BREXIT would occur along our way while planning the event. This caused us a lot of sorrow for a little while but we would not be the worldwide community of German Shepherd Dogs if we did not stand together at this very moment and while some are thriving for division we are continuing on our way for ever more and closer bonds within the WUSV. So, we are very happy that as many as 11 countries have registered to participate in this special event.

Our host city of Nantwich in the county of Cheshire is a charming and picturesque market town lying in the rich farmlands of South Cheshire. It has a wealth of historic buildings and still today retains much of its ancient character. So apart from the exciting event we are all looking forward to there will be lots to see and do in the evenings as well as a chance to explore a place that is new to many of us.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Nantwich Town Football Club and the owners of the tracking land for having entrusted us with their premises and buildings. I kindly ask competitors and spectators alike to reward those parties for their trust in us and treat the facilities we are going to use with respect.

Let me use this opportunity to give thanks to everybody involved in the preparatory work. Thanks to our WUSV member club – the German Shepherd Dog League of Great Britain – and its board members as well as the many club members and volunteers who help to make this event happen. And I would like to give thanks to the participants who worked hard to qualify for the participation in this competition and who bothered to travel – often over long distances – to show their talents, enthusiasm and inspiration for what they do.

The WUSV Universal Championship is – in contrast to the WUSV World Championship – a competition that features the three disciplines in terms of dog sports, i.e. tracking work, obedience and defense work plus a breed show. In order to succeed at this kind of event, the dogs who participate excel in both qualifications – performance and very good breeding properties.

I wish all of you the best of luck and fruitful encounters that you will remember for a long time in the years to come. I am very much looking forward to meeting you in Nantwich from June 07<sup>th</sup> to June 09<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Please allow me to close with the famous words Queen Victoria of England was quoted as having said:

*"If it were not for the honest faces of dogs, we should forget the very existence of sincerity."*

With kind wishes



Professor Dr Heinrich Meßler – WUSV President