Editorial

Dear Readers,

As you read this August issue of our SV Magazine, we are in the midst of the main season for local group, federal group and national events. Several main association events have already taken place. The first of these in 2025 was the SV Qualification Test for the WUSV Universal World Championship, which took place in Frechen-Buschbell/Hürth (North Rhineland federal group) from 1 to 4 May. This was followed by the SV Hoopers National Champions' Test in Harsewinkel-Greffen (East Westphalia federal group) from 10 to 11 May, the SV German Youth and Junior Championships in Heek (Westphalia regional group) from 7 to 9 June and the FCI Federal Qualification SV in Immelborn (Thuringia regional group) from 20 to 22 June. The international German Shepherd sporting community gathered in Germany from 4 to 6 July. The WUSV Universal World Championship 2025 took place at the Herbert Dröse Stadium in Hanau, in the Hesse South local group.

Those of you who attended these events were able to witness the passion and personal commitment of the organisers and volunteers who ensured the events' success and the best possible conditions for participants and visitors. We would like to express our deepest gratitude and respect to everyone involved, especially the event organisers, for their exceptional organisation and execution. The sense of unity created by the cooperation and mutual support among members, for our common cause and for the club, was also noticeable.

As those responsible, it is important to us to maintain and further strengthen this positive trend. Volunteering is of great importance to our club. It strengthens communities and fosters harmonious cooperation. Volunteers work without pay, driven by a desire to take on responsibility and bring about positive change. This commitment is a valuable pillar of our association, demonstrating how many of our members are willing to contribute. It deserves recognition and appreciation because without the voluntary support of so many people, it would not be possible to hold these events or maintain our association and local groups.

For that, I say **thank you!**

However, there are also members of our club who are more critical of developments. Usually, these are people who are very active on social media, using it to spread exaggerated criticism and false claims about officials and our association. This type of communication and criticism can have a significant negative impact. It can undermine trust in the individuals involved and in the club. Such posts often aim to promote mistrust and conflict. Overall, it is important and right to express criticism in a factual and well-founded manner, in order to support our work and that of our officials, and to promote fair and respectful interaction.

Most of these members are not active in any of our local groups, nor do they contribute through volunteering or by helping at events. Instead, they try to create a negative atmosphere within our club by criticising those in charge and the association itself. Constructive suggestions and participation on their part are rarely forthcoming. Thanks to its local and federal groups and electoral system, our association has a democratic structure. Every member has the opportunity to get involved through their local group, acting responsibly as an elected delegate to best represent the wishes of members and voters.

However, it is often those members who criticise and express discontent who fail to participate actively, not even within a smaller community such as our local groups. Let us not allow this to influence us negatively. Instead, let's promote our club and our hobby with enthusiasm and look positively towards the future.

I am personally looking forward to the upcoming main association events, where I will once again meet highly motivated, positive members who are selfless and dedicated to our breed and our club.

So let's stay motivated, support each other and work together for the benefit of our club and our breed. Together, we are stronger!

Best wishes,

Daniele Strazzeri