



Dear Readers,

As you hold this issue of SV Magazine in your hands, the dog sports season is slowly coming to a close. The major championships are behind us, and we can look back with pride on impressive performances and moving moments, not to mention the strong showing of our breed.

However, one highlight is still to come: this coming weekend, the tracking elite will meet in Paderborn for the National Tracking Dog Trial, the event for our nose work specialists. We wish all participants success, fair conditions and a great time in the company of like-minded people.

What always inspires me at these events is the special atmosphere, which is always slightly different yet always familiar. It is this sense of togetherness, the commitment of our members and our shared passion for dogs that make our sport so unique.

In addition to the track layers, we would also like to thank our *Schutzhund* assistants, who make a decisive contribution to the success of the demonstrations with their high level of physical effort and skill. Their commitment at this advanced sporting level is a strong testament to our club. In today's fast-paced world, where work, family and personal commitments take up a lot of space, it can't be taken for granted that people will volunteer, whether as officials, helpers, performance judges or organisers. Organising an event on the scale of a national competition requires months of planning and coordination, and often means having to sacrifice your personal life. Everyone involved deserves our sincere thanks and recognition.

In this context, I would particularly like to acknowledge the tremendous work done by our performance judges. The National Champions' Test in particular demonstrates just how demanding this task is. There is hardly any other event in the world where performance judges, especially in the obedience section, work continuously from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon without a break. This task requires the highest level of concentration, physical endurance and an acute feeling for each individual performance. With around 130 dogs, this is an impressive feat that deserves our utmost respect.

I am looking forward to the coming months with excitement and anticipation, and I hope to see many of you again in person at an event soon.

Wilfried Tautz,

Association Head of Training