

9th WUSV Universal Championship 2019 in Nantwich/Cheshire Great Britain

This year, the WUSV Universal Championship – which was held for the first time in 2011 as an approach to feature the universal idea of dog sports – was hosted by the German Shepherd Dog League of Great Britain in England.

I had the honourable task to serve as the head judge to the event in substitution of Dr Wolfgang Tauber who most regrettably fell ill in spring this year. Thus, I would like to use this opportunity to once again express my thanks to Dr Tauber for all the work and efforts he made beforehand.

My thanks also go to the German Shepherd Dog League of Great Britain and all volunteers who worked in the team as set up by the head of organization, Ms Shirley Hutchinson, and who all worked brilliantly towards the success of the event. On this weekend a large number of club members were employed. From the very beginning of the opening of the event followed by a splendid welcome party, throughout the competitions to the very end of the awarding ceremony – at regrettably rainy weather conditions – competitors and spectators alike could truly enjoy their visit and were met with warmth and kindness by the host organization

The Weaver Stadium in Nantwich with its adjacent fields was ideally suited for the WUSV Universal Championship 2019. The adjoining rooms inside the main building of the stadium offered enough space for the drawings and the welcome party. All meetings could be held in a central place. The tracking fields could be reached within 30 minutes by car and in this respect the WUSV Universal Championship was a competition of short distances.

Unfortunately, nobody can change the weather and typical English rain accompanied the event from the beginning to the very end.

Despite some BREXIT related complications, the rather high number of 44 competitors from 11 nations could be recorded. For comparison – on the occasion of the WUSV Universal Championship in 2011 the total of 41 competitors were on record.

Unfortunately, the upcoming BREXIT was like the Sword of Damocles to the event. The host organization mustered great persuasion prior to the event and coupled with typically English humour and great enthusiasm they succeeded in the organization of a splendid event regardless of all the difficulties they faced. During the course of three days the winners featuring the best of anatomic qualities and performance were identified among the competing German Shepherd dogs.

Before the event all German Shepherd dogs had to succeed in a table jump exercise and were then subjected to a veterinary examination. All registered dogs passed this test well.

Section A – for tracking – was judge by Mr. Wolfgang Rook from Germany. He was supported by the very experienced tracking commissioner Mr. Ernst Riegl from Austria. Meadows with high grassland served as tracking fields and were located approximately 20 kilometres from Nantwich.

Most of the dogs performed very well. Only one dog could not start and one male dog failed the examination meanwhile all females coped well.

My thanks go to the tracklayers who worked absolutely within the scope of the examination rules with an even distribution of the tracking objects and a continuous performance on all three days even though the weather conditions exposed them to one or the other rain shower. Much obliged!

In the stadium trial judge Mr. Peter Mayerl from Austria worked on section B – defence work – and was assisted by long-down-judge Fintan Lalor from Ireland. Mr. Marinus Bastiaansen from Belgium judged section C – obedience.

The following gentlemen served as agitators for defence work:

Part 1: Mark Rigby, Deputy Ross Heron

Part 2: Nick Warmann, Deputy John Padden

Both of them performed in a continuous and fair fashion throughout the entire event.

All dogs – males and females alike – passed their examinations in terms of the obedience exercises. All females succeeded in terms of defence work meanwhile one male dog had to abandon the examination. Two females were withdrawn from the competition after having taken part in the tracking work examination.

It was very fortunate that the judges for next year's **WUSV Universal Championship 2020 in France/ Strasbourg** were already present in Nantwich, such as

Mr. Marinus Bastiaansen/Belgium for section A,

Mr. Manfred Drescher/Germany for section B

and for the show-part, the WUSV vice president Mr. René Rudin from Switzerland.

Thus, continuity and steadiness are guaranteed for the years to come.

For the first time in history all WUSV Board of Directors were present.

Show judge was WUSV Board of Directors' member Mr. Imran Husain from Pakistan who provided competent comments on the results he granted. For better understanding he was partly assisted by an interpreter.

Winner of the male dogs was Korky vom Barbatus with Ronny Van den Berghe from Belgium who already won on the occasion of the WUSV Universal Championship in Belgium.

Winner of the female dogs was Helaka Asia with Jayne Wood from England.
The team prize was awarded to Germany.

One outstanding feature of this sort of competition is still that it is not dominated by the “professionals” from both camps. Comradery and a friendly atmosphere are paramount during the event and the competitors are not so much driven by obsessive ambition

However, the event does deserve considerably more attention and visitors.

I would like to use this opportunity to give thanks to the WUSV Board of Directors for having entrusted me with the office of head judge to this year's WUSV Universal Championship and for the trust the gentlemen placed in me.

My congratulations go to the English Club, the GSD League of Great Britain, to the chairman, Ms. Shirley Hutchinson, to her entire team, and once more all the best for the 100th anniversary of the organization!

I am already very much looking forward to the 10th WUSV Universal Championship in 2020 in Strasbourg/France which will be first anniversary celebration of the event as such.

Egon Gutknecht
WUSV Head Judge