

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR FOR CART RACE

I so much wished to give a nice and positive report from the EC 2009 in Schonloo, Netherlands, but not even on the administrative side of it, is it possible for me. I really regret all the negative things our Musher and Member Countries experienced.

Personally I have received so many complaints, that I cannot count them on one hand.

We in the Board must also bear a certain amount of responsibility, because we said yes to too many changes compared to what was set up for the EC, but the Organizers -Mushing Holland - asked for changes, that we should never had accepted. We are sorry for this, and shall promise in the future to do things better.

Just to mention a few things:

We accepted "for this Race only" a reduced age for dogs participating

- and we also accepted to have the Championship over 2 days only.

The Organizer gave Wild Card despite the fact that only the Board is allowed to do so.

The Rule of only participating for own Country (mentioned in Own Passport) was violated.

Musher who did not know the set of Race Rules were participating (this is also hard to know for the Organizer), but every musher accepts by his entry that he knows the Rules.

Having said this - I have - as the Race Marshal at the Race, had the very doubtful honour to disqualify two musher for not following the Rules concerning their own protection. Taking into account that I in very good Time advised these musher to wear helmet and gloves they refused this, and one even threw his helmet at me in anger. Such a bad behaviour in front of spectators is just too much!

Despite this I am thanking the Organizers on behalf of all the participants, as the sportive conditions were fine. The Chief of the Trail had made a very good job with perfect markings, and nobody should be able to take a wrong turn.

The Trail was set in a beautiful Forest with many turns and was very flat. I believe that the maximum diff. in height did not exceed 80 cm. - very suitable for "Low Landers".

YES – it was a wet Trail, but we are so lucky that no person can change weather conditions, and we all have to accept that our sport is close related to the nature.

At the Start/Finish Area there was a big tent with "service" to everyone – also to the many spectators who turned up, and I believe they had a good experience.

For our next European Championship – No. 4, in Reingers, Austria you have been able to see the Invitation on our Website, and the Trail and further conditions have been checked by Walter Treichl, who has reported that everything looks all right, and the Trail has been used several times by the Austrians together with the Hungarians, to what I know.

I can promise that all Rules and all controlling at our European Cart Championship in Reingers in November will be done to the full satisfaction of our musher.

At the moment when I write this there has been advertised new

Rules for travelling in and into Europe with 5 dogs or more. These Restrictions is a real and serious threat to our common sport, and we are investigating what we possibly can do about it.

I have an answer from Sweden saying that they are looking for "Solutions for the Sled Dog Sport and other who are affected by this".

Let us hope they will find a good solution as the opposite is ´difficult and expensive to live with.

Kind regards

Gert Kronholm