



## **Racing and World Driving Championship Standing Committee**

Meetings:      Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> 2009      14.00-16.30  
                    Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> 2009      13.40-16.30

Room: "Losjen"

Standing committee secretary: Cecilie Sjurzen

Chairman: Peter Truzla

Members:

Peter Truzla (Austria) – *Wednesday*, Steve Phillips (New Zealand)-*Tuesday*, Anette Isaksen (Norway), Matti Lakkisto (Finland), Trond Gravdal (Norway)- *Wednesday* and John Pawlak (USA)- *Wednesday*

Minutes:

**1. Committee chairman. The committee will need to appoint a chairman.**

Peter Truzla was appointed chairman on Wednesday.

**2. Finalization of agenda items (# 8, 9)**

**3. Receipt and confirmation of 2007 Standing Committee minutes from Christchurch.**

**Review of Chief Executive meeting in Canada 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2008**

Nothing added.

**4. Interim report on WDC 2009 by Peter Truzla (Wednesday)**

Overall well organized, with horses of good quality. The grading system of the horses was very good, supporting each driver with equal chances. One problem might be that there's no back up horses in case some horses might be disqualified. But this is not easy to arrange. All the drivers kept high standards, and the strict rules and regulations in Norway made sure that the championship went on without too many problems in the races. Two coldblooded races was included in the championship, this was a good idea, giving the drivers an opportunity to try out the Norwegian breed. The rest of the program concerning transportation, accommodation and activities was also very good.

**5. 2011 World Driving Championship.**

The 2011 World Driving Championship will be hosted by USA.

The races will take place in the following dates: 1-6<sup>th</sup> of August. The races will be held at 5 tracks in 6 nights. The Meadowlands is cleared, other tracks yet to be confirmed. Dialog with Yonkers, Chester, Pocono and Monticello is being made. It's already decided that there will



be one 1 mile track, two ½ mile tracks and two 1000m tracks. Also suggested long distance race (s) to be held at the ½ mile tracks.

#### **Determination of future competitors**

Two different ways of determination of future competitors was made. The winner of WDC 2009 taken into consideration, it be a European driver or Peter Ferguson from New Zealand. Only one driver from each country will be allowed. None European countries decides by themselves how to select a driver.

Suggestion number 1: If Peter Ferguson is the winner of the 2009 WDC:

1 entry from USA

1 entry from Canada

1 entry from Australia

1 entry from New Zealand. If Peter Ferguson becomes the winner of 2009 WDC he'll be defending the title in the 2011 WDC. If he decides not to participate, New Zealand can send a different driver to take his place.

5 entries from Europe. These will be given to the top 5 drivers in the European Championship of 2010.

The last entry might be given to the driver on 6<sup>th</sup> place in the European Championship. Also suggested that the last entry might be made be a wildcard. For none-UET countries there must be paid an entry fee. There is to be a total of ten drivers in the WDC.

Suggestion number 2: if there's to be a European winner of the 2009 WDC:

1 entry each from USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

WDC 2009 winner to defend the title.

5 entries from Europe. These will be given to the top 5 drivers from the European Championship of 2010.

There is to be a total of ten drivers in the WDC.

If WDC 2009 winner doesn't want to defend the title, no other drivers from this country will be appointed to take his place. In such a case, the possibility of giving a non-UET country a wildcard was discussed. This could also be possible if defending WDC 2009 winner ends within the top 5 drivers of the European Championship of 2010. Nothing finally agreed upon this matter. Suggestions made goes with any lack of drivers.

➔ As Birger Jørgensen was World Champion 2009, suggestion 2 will be the one to follow.

#### **Review of funding and prize money**

The committee agreed that there will be no changes made on this issue.



### **Review of rules and restrictions**

Nothing added.

## **6. Future World Driving Championships**

### **Objectives**

- 1) Suggestion made upon public draw of drivers. This may cause problems concerning that horses in early races can't be drawn by the same driver. If this happens, the driver must be changed. This may look like fixing in the public eye. Also, some drivers may not be attended the first few days. Because of this, changes were not made upon this issue. It was finally decided not to have a public drawing.
- 2) Recommendations from the committee about making a list over which drivers who get the best results with the horses, concerning ranking of horses in race. Committee agreed upon this.
- 3) Recommendations from the committee to translate host country rules and regulations into participation countries own language. This is to avoid any misunderstanding regarding the rules and regulations in host country. It was finally decided that participating drivers who do speak English or who brings an English speaking spokesperson will not get the rules and regulations translated into their own language. This is only to be for drivers who doesn't speak any English, and who can't bring an English speaking person with them.
- 4) Concern about how top drivers turn down WDC because they can't afford to take time off from their normal schedule. Drivers must stay away from own marked in several days to attend WDC, not all top drivers can afford this. This causes the top drivers to turn down WDC. Unfortunate when it comes to publicity. The committee agreed that participating countries was responsible of trying to get their top drivers to attend the WDC. There's no possibility for the committee to have an influence on this. Committee also agreed that no drivers would be paid to participate in WDC.
- 5) Remind countries about bringing qualified drivers to WDC, this to maintain appeal to participating drivers of WDC as a championship with top drivers. Also to bring drivers with some experience of driving trotters. A suggestion was made, that there will be a minimum of entrance in races.
- 6) Suggestion made upon that penalty in WDC should consist of monetary penalties, and not suspensions. This to make sure that penalties are over held. Committee agreed against this, decided that host country rules and regulations regarding penalties are to be followed.

### **Sustainability**

Nothing further to add.



### **Consideration of changes to the rules**

- 1) Proposal of a certain amount of trotting races in countries with pacers. Perhaps 50 per cent of races. For the WDC 2011 to be held in USA, it was promised to try to have as many trotting races as possible. But no certain percentage was agreed upon.
- 2) Suggestion from the committee made about creating a general rule for whipping in WDC. Not allowing free hand whipping. Committee agreed to await this question, because of the possibility of a change in the rules in USA.
- 3) The committee suggests that no horse should be allowed to start in a second race on the same day if it's participating in a WDC race on that day.

### **Marketing and promotion**

- 1) Suggestion made upon creating a file for press, with pictures and information of attending drivers. This to make it more accessible for press to follow drivers.
- 2) ITA website should be updated regularly. Host country of WDC might be assigned to this task, or a specific person should be in charge of the administration of the site on a regular basis.
- 3) Host country of WDC should give details over attending drivers to all other countries. Participating countries can make use of this information to promote WDC.
- 4) Promotion of the WDC in USA is to be well organized. There will be information for the press, a website containing information about drivers, the background for WDC, statistics and possibly a competition for fans to enter to win prizes.

### **Involvement of development countries**

- 1) South Africa applied for hosting WDC in 2015. Concern about possible lack of horses. This must be further investigated.

### **Other groups (apprentices, women, amateurs)**

- 1) Addressing issue about apprentices. All agreed that it was not financially possible. The system stays the same. No championship for apprentices.

## **7. Other racing matters**

### **Common rules regarding races in different countries**

- 1) Different use of database when it comes to information and statistics about racing horses. Sometimes it's difficult to achieve correct information and updates on horses when they race in several countries.
- 2) Horses that are not registered in any country may lack updated information. To solve this issue, the committee suggests that all horses should have a registration country.



- 3) Concerning trainers with horses stationed in other countries, different rules for insurance. Suggestion from the committee to create similar insurance system for all countries.
- 4) Suggestion from the committee to put animal welfare on the agenda, wanting common rules regarding animal welfare. More specific rules concerning use of whip.

**Internationalizing drivers, trainers, horses. Licenses.**

- 1) Discussion on the issue of different education systems for licenses. This may cause problems when trainers don't live up to other countries standards for achieving a license. Which license is going to be used when this issue arises?

**Alcohol/drug testing**

Nothing added.

**8. Consideration of issues arising from presentations to business sessions of World Conference, which is not covered by # 1-7**

Nothing added.

**9. Other matters/general business**

USA representative suggested that this committee address issues concerning WDC only. Other racing matters were not possible for this committee to decide and make changes upon.