

NKU Obedience Commission meeting 2/2024

Date: November 10th, 2024 at 4.15 pm
November 11th, 2024 at 9 am

Place: Hotel Scandic Ringsted, Ringsted, Denmark

Participants:	Carina Savander-Ranne,	president	Finland
	Palle Bergsø		Denmark
	Brian Esbensen	secretary	Denmark
	Martha Landin		Sweden
	Stein-Ole Nergaard		Norway

1. Opening

Carina Savander-Ranne opened the meeting November 10th at 4.15 pm

2. Introduction of current delegates and future delegates

Palle Bergsø	Chairman of the Danish Kenneclub's obedience commission FCI and NKU obedience commission delegate
Stein-Ole Nergaard	Chairman of the Norwegian Kenneclub's obedience commission and FCI and NKU obedience commission delegate
Martha Landin	Chairman of Swedish Obedience commission FCI and NKU obedience commission delegate
Carina Savander	Chairman of the obedience commission in Finland President of the FCI obedience commission 2013-2023, now delegate. President of the NKU obedience commission Board member of the Finnish Kennelclub and the Finnish Working Dog Association
Brian Esbensen	Secretary of this meeting and new member in the Danish obedience commission. Also, a new delegate in the FCI and NKU obedience commissions.
Pernilla Tallberg	New member from Finland of the NKU obedience commission from 2025.

3. Introduction of secretary

Brian Esbensen represented Denmark as the secretary of the meeting.

4. Minutes of the 2023 and October 2024 meetings

The minutes were discussed and proven correct according to the course of the meetings.

5. Examiner of minutes

The president will send the minutes to all delegates to be checked.

6. Approval of / complementing the agenda

No new issues were included. If some new issues arise during the meeting, they can be dealt with.

7. NKU Obedience commission 2023-2024 and guidelines for our working practices

- Members, contact information
 - Please provide name and contact information of your delegates and of the contact persons of your NCO.
- Guidelines for our working practices
 - The guidelines were discussed and accepted.
- Responsibilities for arranging the meetings and time
 - It has been a practice for several years that the NKU commission meeting is arranged in connection with the Nordic Championship. The hosting country provides the facilities and secretary for the meeting. The President of the commission takes care of the invitations, agenda, etc. The President also summons all other meetings of the commission. She/he also does the work of a secretary in between the major meetings i.e. except for taking the minutes at our major face-to-face meeting.
- Question of electing president and secretary for the commission
 - The election of president is done amongst the delegates for three years. As this is a small commission, the president does the work usually done by the secretary i.e. the paperwork. This way it is easier for the delegates to concentrate on matters at hand. Thus, a secretary outside the commission is appointed for the annual meeting.
- Information forums, FB, Whatsup, etc.
 - It would be convenient to have a Facebook page for our Nordic championship. It should be updated annually. There information could be posted and questions asked and answered.
 - Carina said that they can start in Finland as they host the next NordM.
 - Access to the page should be at least: commission members, national team leaders, representatives of the organising community.
- Active participation in the commission work and cooperation in the FCI commission
 - Carina wished better activity and participation in the future.
 - Also, she wished that the NKU obedience commission members that are also members of the FCI obedience commission, would cooperate much better in the future so that the Nordic view on obedience would be clearly represented.

8. Guidelines for arranging the Nordic Championship Competitions

- Time and layout

- A fixed date for the competition was set.
- The first alternative is to have it on the last weekend of October. If for some reason this is not possible, the other alternative is to arrange it on the first weekend of November. The dates should be informed of preferably a few years ahead.

- The organizing schedule has been/will be:
2018 Sweden, 2019 Denmark, ~~2020~~ Finland, 2021 Finland, 2022 Norway,
2023 Sweden, 2024 Denmark.

Future dates:

2025: Finland: 24. – 26.10
2026: Norway: 30. – 31.10 – 1.11.
2027: Sweden: 29. – 31.10
2028: Denmark: 27. – 29.10
2029: Finland: 26 – 28.10

- Expenses

- It was noted that each country reimburses their competitors for their travelling costs to the Nordic Championship very differently. This is of course OK.
- We agreed that it would be convenient that an entering fee for each competitor should be 130 €. It was suggested to start off 2025.
- We also unanimously agreed that our current distribution of expenses works fine and is very easy to manage. The expenses are equally distributed and fair for all participating countries.

Two alternatives for the future would thus be:

1. Each country pays their own judge's travel expenses to the competition site/hotel and daily allowance. The organising country stands for the expenses on site, i.e accommodation, meals, refreshments, travelling between hotel and competition site, etc. This is how we have had it up till now.
2. Each country pays their own judge's travel expenses to the competition site/hotel and accommodation and daily allowance. The organising country stands for the expenses on site, i.e. meals, refreshments, travelling from hotel to competition site, etc.

- As the organizing of the NordCh competition has become more and more expensive it would be expedient to have an entering fee for the competitors. The amount could be f. ex. 130 €. This would include the gala dinner on Saturday. The entering fee should be checked f. ex. every four years.
- Also, as the number of competitors could easily be increased without increasing the expenses i.e., we have the time and number of judges so that we could have 40 competitors instead of the current 28.
- NKU/AU decisions
 - The NKU/AU has discussed but not decided on the distribution of the expenses since 2018. Thus, so far, we use the NKU/AU decision from earlier, 2010. It has worked well.
- New layout for our Nordic Championships
 - Ten (10) participants from each country can be entered, altogether 40.
 - Each country nominates its team. This will be six (6) competitors and 1 reserve. In addition, three (3) more competitors may enter from each country. The team result is calculated as before, the five (5) best. The reserve should be nominated beforehand with the team.
 - The rest of the competitors can compete for the individual championship, but their result may not be included in the team results except for the 1st reserve.
 - The change may be done approximately according to our current rules. If the previous year's champion wants to defend her/his title but is not included in the national team she/he should enrol as one of the three extras.
 - The layout should be the same as at the WWCh
- Saturday is the team competition and the qualification for the finals on Sunday.
- On Saturday (qualifiers):
 - two (2) rings and two (2) judges in each ring
 - four (4) exercises in each ring
 - group exercises with all four (4) judges
 - The average is always the final grade.
 - On Sunday the finals with 20 competitors.
 - Who continues to the finals?
 - Altogether 20 competitors continue to the finals:
 - The three (3) best from each country may continue to the finals.
 - The rest will be included in the finals according to rank order.
- In the finals all four judges give their grade. The final grade is the average of all four grades.
- The points of the qualifier (Saturday) and the final (Sunday) are added up and the one with the highest result wins the Nordic Championship.
 - Information to the competitors: Only the heelwork is presented beforehand. All other details such as the positions are drawn on Friday at the judges' meeting.
 - Booking of accommodation for competitors

- Better information about when and where the rooms can be booked.

9. Comments on the past Nordic Championship competition

2024 Denmark Ringsted: The facilities were good and suitable.

10. Future Nordic Championships

2025 Finland – Date: 24 – 26th October (Turku / Åbo.)

Judges:

Chief judge: Finland

Denmark: Jan Sillemann

Sweden: Roar Holmen

Sweden: TBA

Finland: TBA

11. Obedience champion title from a lower class (cl2) in the Nordic countries

Our commission set out a few years ago to have a champion title in the Nordic countries also for class 2. This has been the case in Denmark for more than two decades. Finland and Norway now have this title, and Sweden is working to get the title recognised in 2027. This has activated the competitors as they can strive for the title in class 2 and then continue to have the “elit” title from class 3.

Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish obedience champion titles in class 2 and in class 3

12. FCI judges’ meeting 2024 – discussion

It had been a long waiting for the information and details about the judges’ meeting. It was also postponed several times, and the venue was changes several times.

At last, it was very well organised. The only wish for all future events is that the timetable is carefully planned. Now the timetable we had said that we will be finished late on Sunday afternoon. Thus, many could not anymore take a Sunday evening flight home and had to stay till Monday. We finished at noon, even if there would have been good reason and issues to discuss further after lunch.

13. Future Nordic judges’ meetings

We would like to have a Nordic judges’ meeting. But there should be enough participants, and it could be open also for judges outside the Nordic countries.

14. FCI WWCh in Norway

2-6 July Oslofjord Convention Center. Invitation is sent to all the kennel clubs in November 2024.

Judges:

Chief judge: Stein-Ole Nergaard, Norway

Norway: Bjørn Ivar Svendsen

Ukraine: Maryna Nemchenko

Estonia: Anne Tamiksalu

Portugal: Maria Eduarda Nogueira De Sousa Pires

15. The challenge prize/cup (rotation award)

The situation of our rotation awards (vandringpris) should be surveyed.

- The prize for the individual champion
- The prize for the team champions.

16. The next meeting

We will have the next meeting after our NordCh last weekend of October.

If urgent issues arise, we will have a teams meeting or discuss things at the FCI commission meeting.

17. End of meeting

Carina Savander-Ranne closed the meeting. Thanked everyone for this meeting. As she will end her membership in the commission, she also thanked all the members for the past years and wished good luck, hard work and good decisions and cooperation for the future members.