



9th IRO Rescue Dog World Championship Frederikssund, Denmark 2003

The IRO World Championships in Denmark were the second big event in the anniversary year 2003. After having met for the international Symposium in Prag, Czech Republik in April the IRO members gathered in Frederikssund, Denmark to participate in a fair competition.

Frederikssund is located at the Roskilde Fjord and is an ancient trading town of the Vikings. And it seemed as if the Viking gods still rule the city – or at least the weather. The constant change of sun and rain and rather low temperatures were a real challenge for all participants.

Despite the different weather conditions the two IRO member organisations Redningshunden Danmark (RDA) and Svenska Brukshundklubben (SBK) managed to organise a well prepared World Championship together. Overall 96 participants out of 15 nations and 24 organisations had registered for the Championships. Finally 91 participants took part in the competition. 10 dogs in tracking search, 40 in area search and 41 in rubble search. There were 17 IRO membership organisations out of 13 countries participating in the team score. There was a briefing for the team leaders containing all the important information. But unfortunately the information was not given to all the dog handlers by the team leaders and therefore was not obeyed by all participating teams.

As there is no need for a pedigree in order to participate at the IRO World Championships there was a high diversity of races that could be seen. Amongst the participants were German shepherd dogs, Belgian shepherd dogs, Bernese Mountain Dogs, all kinds of Retrievers, Rottweilers, Boxers, Giant Schnauzers, various Terriers, Pudelpointers, Border Collies, Beaucerons, American Cocker Spaniels and of course cross breeds.

The shown work was judged by an experienced group of international judges of the IRO: Head judge was Otto Lanz from Switzerland. The judges in the different branches were the following: Vilem Babicka (CZ) – dexterity, Alfons Fieseler (D) – obedience, Wolfgang Zörner (A) – rubble search, Horst Feichtner (A) – area search and Kurt Joss (CH) tracking search. Mr. Josef Ledergerber (CH) was in charge of track control. All judges observed a buoyancy in the dogs level of training.

As the World Championship office was well organised the award ceremony already took place 30 minutes after the last dog work. After short speeches of the organisers the awards and medals were solemnly presented and for the first time all gold- and one bronze medal were won by one country: the dog handlers from Austria showed an extraordinary level of performance and won all gold medals.

In all three branches the previous year Champions came in second and won the silver medal: in tracking search Thomas Strouhaul (CZ) lost his title to the multiple world champion Peter Schüller (SKV-KHD, A). It was the first time that Peter Schüller became world champion with two different dogs.

In area search Johan Nol (NL) lost his title to Nina Morawetz (also SKV-KHD, A). This decision was particularly exciting as the dog handler did all the work with a bitch in heat at the very end of the event. In addition to that the decision was extremely close as they were tied and the better nosework helped Morawetz to win.

In rubble search Theres Jans (CH) lost her title to Nicole Tacha (SVÖ, A). In this branch the decision was also very close. Rank 1 and 2 are separated by only 1 point. Rank 3 is tied with rank 2.

The team score also brought a clear victory for Austria: SKV-KHD Vienna with 2 gold and 1 bronze medal became 1st with a 21 WC point interval to the Danish host RDA. The bronze medal of the team score was won by the swiss team.