

EIWC chairman's report for the years 2008 and 2009

Membership

The E.I.W.C. is steadily growing. The members counts 20 different European national breed clubs from 19 different countries, as 2 clubs are from Belgium. England and Northern Ireland are associated members. Which are no less than 4 new members since the 2008 meeting in Slovenia. The new members are: Austria, Hungary, Sweden and Estonia .

The estimated number of individuals, who are currently members of the E.I.W.C. through their breed club memberships, is according to our treasurer we are counting roughly 3000 persons.

The board

Remains unchanged since our last event in Slovenia in 2008. At this meeting all delegates were present

The constitution of the board is made up of a broad spectrum of personalities, who seem to complement each other well. For my own part, I must say that it has been a great pleasure to work with you all and I wish to thank you very much for the constructive and innovative discussions, which we have entertained in the two years which has gone by.

Delegates

It must be pointed out that our delegates are an important links between the board and the various Irish wolfhound club members within in E.I.W.C. Make your clubs and innovative ideas visible for the entire federation!

Once again it should be pointed out that interaction between members and the members of the E.I.W.C. board will enable the latter to optimize and shape the work for the breed and its caretakers.

The greater the interaction between the members and the board, the better chances we have of working for the breed and for our members. I wish to thank the delegates for their work.

Activities:

The previous EIWC Congress, board meeting and the show, was hosted by the Slovenian Club in 2008. The event was extremely well organized, in beautiful mountainous surroundings and with a good entry dogs for the show. Unfortunately with Denmark being flat

as a pancake, we are unable to provide a similar scenic landscape, but hope to make up for this in other ways.

Meetings:

The board is able to do most of our work via the internet, which it has made frequent use of in dealing with various subjects. It has worked out well for us and is a viable solution second best to the actual meetings. In a way, there is even an advantage in having our cyber meetings, since it means having a full record of all dealings in writing.

The Magazine:

Carolyn Dean has continuously put out one outstanding volume after another for 4 years now. The magazine continues to receive praise and awe all over the IW world.

Nevertheless, the publication is in serious jeopardy. It has continued to run at a loss, which Carolyn Dean has carried. Unfortunately she is no longer able to do that, and we have to find a new setup for our publication. Only through the support from Marcello Poli has volume VIII is now completed. This is not a viable approach for the future, but his generosity has provided a bit of breathing space while its future is being negotiated. I have brought copies of the latest addition to this meeting. In order to keep the Magazine going, we need to spread the various tasks of publishing more hands. We have a possible new editor; Caroline Sheppard. Carolyn Dean will continue with layout, but we are in need of personnel for selling subscriptions and soliciting advertisements. We need one or two persons in charge of recruiting writers and we must consider various means of fundraising in support of the magazine. It would be a terrible loss if we were forced to terminate the publication. The board of E.I.W.C. is eternally grateful for the dedication and the beautiful job Carolyn has put into the magazine. The financial loss, which she has endured as a result, is regrettable.

Other publications:

The board made the decision to publish a new edition of Lois Thomasson's book: "The Irish Wolfhound Odyssey". This work has been drawn out by the long term illness and subsequent passing of Lois Thomasson's husband. However Lois is having her manuscript transferred onto electronic media, from which the new edition can be printed. I was informed that we would have it shortly.

The website:

Appears to be slightly dormant at the moment. However we must bear in mind that all tasks within the E.I.W.C. are carried out by a voluntary workforce, which means dedicated men and women giving their spare time to the organization. We thank Melitta Kuhless for the work as webmaster.

The EIWC longevity/health database:

The database is also in the hands of Melitta Kuhless. It has changed names to the Picture Database. The very nature of this database has changed quite a bit from the original intention, namely a form a database recording issues of longevity and health. There is no reason why there shouldn't be room for building a new parallel database which addresses initial idea of the board. Who knows the two could possibly complement each other.

Planned activities for the next 2 years

The first E.I.W.C. activity of the next two year period is taking place right now. We are in the middle of the congress. The board members of the Danish Irish Wolfhound Club have worked

long hard hours while arranging this event. Our next congress in Italy in 2012 is already on the drawing table. Having experienced the planning of such an event leaves one in awe of those who did so well in the past and of those who voluntarily undertake the task in the future.

The E.I.W.C.

One of the great responsibilities of the E.I.W.C. is to inform about the breed. In general, this is best accomplished by connecting nations and enhancing increased communication flow. We also wish to provide information of a more specific nature, such as the publication of the mentioned book by Lois Thomasson – and hopefully other breed specific publications in the future.

The magazine is a continuous work which needs your ongoing support in order for it to survive. A whole new concept of shared responsibilities in the publishing of the mag. has to be designed for the future

It is great to have big ambitions for the activities within the E.I.W.C. Sadly ideas are not enough, without funds we can basically do nothing. We have briefly discussed the idea of creating various forms of fundraising for the E.I.W.C. activities. Again we need willing persons to undertake such jobs. This federation does not belong to a handful of tired board members, nor is it the sole responsibility of afore mentioned board to make projects happen. The federation belongs to the European Irish Wolfhound community. The question should not merely be: "What can this organization do for me?" but rather, "what have you done for the Federation lately?"

Pernille Monberg
Chairman E.I.W.C.