



4th IRO – Judges test and meeting Czech Republic 2006

This year the annual IRO judges test took place on March 17th in Zatec in the Czech Republic. The event was under the direction of the spokesperson for training and deployment Otto Lanz from Switzerland and the instructor-judge Alfons Fieseler from Germany. This year 5 aspirants registered for the judges test. Two aspirants did not fulfil the requirements and therefore were not allowed to the test. One aspirant unfortunately became ill. So there were two aspirants from Finland and Japan had registered for the test. They had to complete a theoretical and a practical part of the test. Both participants passed the theoretical part but unfortunately failed the practical test. So for both of them the overall result of the test was negative.

The judges test was followed by the annual judges meeting which took place from March 18th to 19th 2006 in the same place. Training weekends like this should help to guarantee consistent judging results of the IRO judges. As last year the Czech NRO SZBK CR agreed to organise the test and the meeting in the Czech Republic.

Overall there were 22 IRO judges participating at the meeting. The following nations were represented: Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Slovakia, Finland, Italy, Sweden, Czech Republic, Netherlands and Japan.

Main focus of the meeting was the new IRO-FCI testing standard which is valid since January 1st 2006. The two training days were divided into a theoretical part and a practical part. In the practical part the judges had to judge various dogs in different test branches at different levels. All exercise shown were judged in plenum and were subject to detailed discussions. Comparison of results led to interesting discussions and considerations. The tests were carried out in obedience, dexterity, tracking, area and rubble.

The IRO judges meeting ended on Sunday about lunch time with the closing speech of Otto Lanz. He thanked for the many educational talks and discussions that took place. The held meeting confirmed his opinion that the new testing standard which demands more from dog and dog handler is the right way to train mission-ready teams. But likewise he reminded the judges that they must always stick to the testing standard strictly and that there are no exceptions and discrepancies that can be allowed. Finally Mr. Lanz expressed his gratitude for the help of all the dog handlers and for the organisational work and hospitality of Mrs. Helena Sabatova and Mr. Vladimir Kuchta.



Theoretical part in the seminar room



Group picture of the IRO judges



Discussion and evaluation of judges results



Area test