

THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG LEAGUE OF GREAT BRITAIN LIMITED



Patron
Mrs Wendy Stephens
President
Mr Terry Hannan
Vice Presidents
Mr Syd Farley
Mr John Ward
Mr Ron White



Founded 1919

**Member of the World Union of
German Shepherd Dogs**

Chairman
Mrs Shirley Hutchinson
Vice Chairman
Mr Steve Foran

Secretary:
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19th January 2021

Dear Member,

As we enter a New Year, I am sure that you will all be hoping that it is a better one than 2020 and that we will soon be able to resume some normal activities. Covid restrictions have prevented us from meeting with friends to enjoy our dogs for so long and I know we are all longing for training, shows, trials...

Carole Lister recently issued the normal January letter which advises you of the closing date (1st Feb) for nomination for Council in accordance with our constitution. I am sure that you will appreciate that we are currently unable to confirm a date for our 2021 AGM. We had been hoping to hold it on 21st March but that is looking very unlikely at the moment. We plan to hold the 2020 AGM on the same day.

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the discussions which I have had with Henriette Bohnstedt. Chair of the GSDL Working Branches (WDG), with regards to the dispute between Council (GSDLC) and the WDG. Since last summer, Henriette and I have met four times with Heather MacDonald, WUSV Continental Director, facilitating the meetings.

We have managed to establish the underlying cause of the disagreement between the GSDL Council and the WDG EC:

GSDL Council believes that the WDG is an integrated section of the GSD League and, as such, should be accountable to the GSDL Council to ensure the proper running of the organisation in accordance with KC rules and WUSV rules. We believe that this integration occurred at our AGM in 2007 when the then British Schutzhund Association adopted the name GSD League of Great Britain Working Branches.

The WDG EC believe that the GSDL WDG is an autonomous organisation that has an affiliation agreement with the GSDL and as such the GSDL Council does not have jurisdiction over its activities.

The GSDL Council are conscious of their responsibility to ensure the smooth running of the GSDL which is the Parent organisation of all groups which bear our name. We have, therefore, presented two detailed proposals to the WDG EC for discussion to try and rectify the dispute:

- An affiliation agreement which separates more formally the GSDL from the WDG but provides for access to competitions which the GSDL is able to send teams to by virtue of its membership of the KC and / or the WUSV
- An amendment to the GSDL Constitution which more fully integrates the WDG branches into the GSDL Constitution so that its activities are ultimately controlled by GSDL members at General Meetings

Please see below a table which summarises the key points of each Council proposal and compares them to the current structure.

The WDG EC did not feel that either proposal was acceptable and want the current structure to remain.

We are disappointed that no elements of our proposals have been taken as a starting point for discussion. Whilst the discussions have concluded, we have left the door open to the WDG EC to come back to us if they are willing to find points of compromise.

The primary objective of Council is to ensure that the interests of the German Shepherd Dog and GSD League are represented and always protected. All interests such as IGP and shows are secondary to that objective. We are concerned that the WDG EC are so determined to ensure that they protect their access to World IGP competitions that they plan to take control of the organisation and the German Shepherd will no longer be the centre of attention for the organisation.

The GSDL Council want to ensure that the GSD League of Great Britain remains a breed focussed organisation that supports all fans of the breed. We have ambitions to not only continue to support our show and IGP members but also extend our activities into agility, obedience, companion dog ownership, herding.....

We have no desire to exclude other breeds from our IGP activities but we believe that there are better ways of involving them than the current structure.

As we are unable to meet and discuss these matters currently, we will shortly be sending out a survey to all members to give you a chance to tell us your views on these matters so that we can make sure that any AGM proposal will be acceptable to the majority.

Kind Regards,



Shirley Hutchinson
Chairman

Attachments: Proposal comparison table

	Current Structure	Proposal 1: Affiliation Agreement	Proposal 2: Full Integration of the WDG into the GSD League
Who is responsible for organising IGP activities?	The GSDL WDG EC	The Executive Committee of a Separate New Organisation. (New WDO)	The Management Committee of the WD section of the GSD League
Who elects these committees?	GSDL WDG Members at the GSDL WDG AGM	New WDO members at the New WDO AGM	All GSDL Members at the GSDL AGM
Who has ultimate responsibility for all aspects of the organisation(s)	The GSD League Council (note this is currently disputed by the WDG EC)	GSDL: GSD League Council New WDO: New WDO EC	The GSD League Council
Do I need to be a member of the GSDL to train my dog in IGP?	Yes	No	Yes
Can my club remain registered with the GSDL?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can I qualify to compete at the WUSV IGP World Championships?	Yes subject to prevailing agreement with BAGSD on team selection	Yes subject to new agreement with GSDL and / or BAGSD on team selection	Yes subject to prevailing agreement with BAGSD on team selection
Can I qualify to compete at the FCI World IGP Championships	Yes subject to prevailing agreement with KC and other interested parties on team selection	Yes subject to prevailing agreement with KC and other interested parties on team selection	Yes subject to prevailing agreement with KC and other interested parties on team selection