



W.U.S.B.



Minutes of the WUSB delegates meeting on 16. May 2025, Němčice, CZ

Delegates: Ann de Laet (B), Francois van Leugenhaege (B), Ane Christiansen (DK), Lise-Lotte Sønderskov Jessen (DK), Anne Haapakosli (FI), Didier Basset (F), Celine Botussi (F), Johannes Mayer (D1), Ellen Waßmann(D1), Bent Brohus Christiansen (I, D2), Andrej Djomins (LV), Ludmila Forosa-Djomina (LV), Th. Bouwman-Boere (NL), Myriam Nelissen (NL), Manuela Scheyrer (A), Petra Mülitzer (A), Reto Wiederkehr (CH), Erika Motzler (CH), Nina Dolinsek (SI), Benjamin Zgank (SI), Kevin Young (ZA), Kari Augestad (N), Martina Ellerova (SK), Dušan Muller (SK), Milan Plundra (CZ), Jan Bendl (CZ), Bob Sykora (USA), Jeff Petersen (USA)

Guests: Wolfgang Splinter (D1), Annegret Splinter (D1), Ana Pastor Orellana (E), Maximiano Ruiz (E), Antonio Alenda Aracil (E), Ezequiel Medina Bellido (E), Bente Bie (DK), Christine Rossier (CH), Tanja Sillanpää (FI), Lubomír Široký (CZ)

Agenda:

1. Welcome by the President and determination of the number of delegates
2. Minutes of the delegates' meeting WUSB 2024 in Switzerland
3. Information from the Czech Saint Bernard Club about the WUSB 2025
4. Amendment of the statutes of the WUSB
5. Brief information from St. Bernhards-Clubs about the WUSB in 2026 - Election of the judges
6. Next WUSB Events
7. Reports of the board:
 - Annual report of the president
 - Vice-president
 - Treasurer's report
 - The cash auditor and accounting firm
8. Discharge of the board
9. Election of the Board
 - President
 - Vice-president
 - Treasurer
 - 1. Secretary
 - 2. Secretary
 - 3. Secretary
10. Election of 2 cash auditors
11. health checks in the member states (DANN - health tests)
12. Reports from the member clubs
13. Any other business

TOP 1)

Didier Basset welcomed all delegates and guests at 1.30 p.m. and thanked them for travelling all this way. The invitation to the meeting was issued in due form and time. The meeting is quorate. The delegates were verified. 28 delegates and 10 guests are present. The meeting is open to all, but only the delegates have the right to vote in the votes and elections.



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Didier Basset asks those present for a minute's silence in memory of the recently deceased President of the Irish St Bernard Club and judge Austin Long-Doyle.

The WUSB President informs the delegates about various letters from the President of the Spanish Club. The registered Spanish delegates and judges are absent without excuse, so that no discussion can take place.

TOP 2)

The minutes of the 2024 Delegates' Meeting in Martigny were unanimously approved. There were no comments.

TOP 3)

The President of the Czech Saint Bernard Club, Milan Plundra, welcomes all those present, especially the Chairman of the Czech Kennel Club, and provides information about the WUSB show on 17 May 2025. The club is proud to be organizing the WUSB and club show to mark its 80th anniversary. Wolfgang Ketzler has found documents that the club is already 101 years old.

144 dogs from 12 countries are entered for the WUSB show. There are 127 entries for the club show. Judging takes place in 2 rings. A CAC will be awarded. He also informs about the program for the rest of the day.

Kevin Young asks for the floor. He presents a St Bernard head as a door knocker, which Pat Muggleton brought to him in South Africa via the USA. It has adorned the door of his St Bernard museum for many years and now he would like to pass it on to Milan Plundra.

TOP 4)

Ellen Waßmann presents the proposed amendments to the statutes and justifies them (majority only editorial). The amendments to the statutes are adopted unanimously. (see Annex 1)

TOP 5)

Ellen Waßmann presents the exhibition grounds for the WUSB 2026 and provides flyers for the member countries. Further information will be published shortly on the St. Bernhards-Klub homepage and on Facebook. (see attachment 2)

The following judges have been nominated by the member clubs for the WUSB 2026:

Proposed by	Judges name	Participation in the judges' meeting of the last 3 years	Delegate votes
France	Kari Augestad	yes	16 *male longhair
Italy	Didier Basset	yes	18 *male shorthair
Switzerland	Yvo Beccarelli	yes	9 Reserve
Slovakia	Martina Ellerová	yes	4
Czech republic	Milan Plundra	yes	17 *female shorthair
USA	Cindy Valko	yes	5
Norway	Bernard Leger	yes	16 *female longhair
Germany2	Annegret Russ	excused	-
Spain	Nicolás Castro	no	-

* Addendum from the banquet to elect the classes



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TOP 6)

WUSB events in the upcoming years:

2026	Germany (135 anniversary) confirmed
2027	Italy
2028	France (120 anniversary) confirmed
2029	Spain
2030	Finland (noted)

TOP 7)

Report of the President

Welcome to this year's meeting in the Czech Republic, in this village in the Centre of the Bohemia region. Thank you for coming to this meeting. I know that for some of you it's been a very long journey to take part in this meeting of delegates, but it's always a great pleasure to see you again. This year 12 nations will be represented at Saturday's event, with 144 dogs registered for this year's event.

Thank you to the Czech Club and the Milan Plundra team for hosting us this year. Everyone here is familiar with the work involved in organizing a WUSB event, and I think we can thank them most warmly for the work they have done. A quick look back at 2024.

First of all, I'd like to say a few words about the WUSB in Switzerland. Coming to Switzerland for our breed is a truly symbolic moment; being in the country of origin and more particularly in Martigny, just a few kilometers from the birthplace of our breed, is always a special moment, like a pilgrimage of sorts.

Even if the Saint Bernard is no longer used in mountain rescue, we must never forget that it was on the snowy slopes of the Grand Saint Bernard pass that the breed was established over time. We must all, judges, breeders and private individuals alike, never forget this. Our current companions, before being formidable family dogs, the children's friend or the big winners at shows, must above all remain mountain dogs. So please, we need to be vigilant about any deviations in type or fashion that we unfortunately see from time to time. We all have a duty to remember this breed.

A big thank you to the Swiss club and its partners for the perfect organization of this long weekend. Thanks also to the Barry Foundation for allowing us to use their facilities for this annual event.

2024 was also the year in which an old trophy from 1975, donated by former WUSB President Peter Schmidlin, was given a new lease of life. Thanks to a donation from the De Boer family (DK), who won this prize in the 1990s with their longhaired male Hanaethorp Rico, this imposing statue is now the property of the WUSB.

In partnership with the Barry Foundation, a special place will be reserved for it at the museum in the new complex dedicated to our beloved Saint Bernards in Martigny.

Your committee has decided that a replica of this trophy will be presented each year to the Best in Show at the exhibition. 2024 was also the year in which our website experienced some visibility problems. The site, created and managed by Ann since its creation in 2015, is no longer being recognized by certain search engines or new operating systems. Thank you, Ann for all the time spent updating this essential means of communication.

The future team to be elected at this meeting will have to breathe new life into it. Your committee has met twice by videoconference and once in person over the past year.

At this meeting, you will elect the members of the committee for the next three years. I would like to thank all the outgoing members who have given tirelessly of their time to ensure the smooth running of our global gathering and guide it into the future in keeping with the WUSB spirit.

That, in a nutshell, sums up the past year.



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Vice-President

Annegret Splinter, Vice-President, informs the delegates that she will not be standing again as Vice-President and bids farewell to the WUSB Board with emotional words. She has very much enjoyed working for the WUSB and thanks everyone for the wonderful time and the friendships that have developed. Those present thanked her with a standing ovation.

Treasurers report

Reto Widerkehr reports on the WUSB's finances and the annual accounts for 2024, which show a slight surplus in expenditure that is unanimously accepted by the delegates.

Report of the cash auditors

Nina Dolinsek and Lise-Lotte Jessen report on the cash audit. Everything is properly booked. An audit was also carried out by the trust company, which found no cause for complaint.

TOP 8)

The auditors Nina Dolinsek and Lise-Lotte Jessen recommend to the delegates that the actions of the Executive Board be approved. The actions of the Executive Board are approved unanimously.

TOP 9)

The delegates appoint Wolfgang Splinter as neutral election officer. Myriam Nelissen-Franzen and Annegret Splinter act as assistants in counting the votes.

Before each ballot, Wolfgang Splinter asks whether the candidates will accept this office if elected, which is affirmed by all.

Function	Candidate	Votes	remarks
president	Didier Basset	22 yes 6 no	confirmed as president
Vice-president	Johannes Mayer Kevin Young Milan Plundra	17 yes 5 yes 6 yes	confirmed as vice-president - -
Treasurer	Reto Widerkehr	26 yes 2 abstain	confirmed as treasurer
1.Secretary	Ann de Laet	23 yes 2 no 2 abstain 1 invalid	confirmed as 1. secretary
2.and 3. Secretary in one ballot	Ellen Waßmann Ane Christiansen Nina Dolinsek	24 yes 9 yes 17 yes	confirmed as 2. secretary - confirmed as 3. secretary

Dr Martina Ellerova asks whether three secretaries are really necessary and what their tasks are. The election officer points out that the election has already been completed and that this enquiry can be submitted before the next delegates' meeting.

Kari Augestad adds that the secretaries work for the WUSB free of charge and in their spare time. The number of secretaries is therefore not relevant.



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TOP 10)

Two auditors are to be elected. Lise-Lotte Jessen, Annegret Splinter and Ane Christiansen are proposed as candidates. Before the ballot, Wolfgang Splinter also asks them whether they would accept this office if elected, which is affirmed by all.

Lise-Lotte Jessen	20 yes	confirmed as auditor
Annegret Splinter	24 yes	confirmed as auditor
Ane Christiansen	9 yes	-

TOP 11)

Ann de Laet reports on the survey on health testing requirements for breeding and DNA profiles. In January, only 4 members responded. After the reminder in May, a further 12 responses were received. Due to the large amount of different information, she was unable to finalize the summary before the delegates' meeting. Over the next few months, members will be informed of the results of the survey so that further work can be carried out.

TOP 12)

Netherlands: The Dutch Club has a new president, the first woman in the club's history.

No further requests to speak.

TOP 13)

Didier Basset thanks all participants for the constructive discussion and closes the meeting at around 4.30 pm.

Minutes: Ellen Waßmann

President: Didier Basset