

43 Dr. Kleemann Prüfung Viöl, Germany October 11-14, 2018

by Frank O'Leary



The 43rd Kleemann was hosted by Klub Schleswig-Holstein in the city of Viöl, in the most northern part of Germany. The area was beautiful and the Klub needs to be complimented for doing an outstanding job of coordination and executive. This was the seventh Kleemann that we have been able to attend and without quest the most organized and executed.

In all there were 136 dogs entered in the event from all over the world. It was great to see old friends and to make new ones and no better time to do so then on Thursday, the morning of the Zuchtschau. Registration is taking place and everyone is there and there is time to visit and see people before everything gets busy in the afternoon. The headquarters for the event was what we would call a community center with an athletic field adjacent to it. It was a great facility and perfect venue for the center of activities.

Other than registration of the dogs, the most important things to do are getting your program, dinner tickets, get your Kleemann pin, identify what group you're in and the meeting place and time. On Friday morning, the Judges wait for no one. Once the dogs and judges arrive at the meeting place they are gone and if you're not with them you have no chance of finding them. Therefore, be there and be early.

After lunch the activity on the field increases with the rings being readied and the dogs starting to gather. At two o'clock the activities officially gets under way. There are four rings, two for Rüdes and two for Hündins. In Rüde ring #1 Francois Aldrich was a Formwertrichter with Gerd Schad and Heinrich Jaacks. Also working outside the Hündin ring Julie Griswold was checking teeth.



(L to R) Heinrich Jaacks, Gerd Schad, and Francois Aldrich

Two NADKC members had entries in the event. Jim Deppen, was leading his Rüde #113 – Szafir z Czarnego Dworu and Frank and Marianne O’Leary had Hündin #100 Maggie vom Trocken Bach. When the evaluations began it was obvious that it was going to be a tough day for many, as dog after dog lost their “V” and were graded as SG. Three dogs were actually given “G” and sent home.

Unfortunately, Jim’s boy was one of the casualties going from “V” to SG, much to his surprise and disappointment. However, as he stated he came for the KS title and that was still on the table.



Lotta and Maggie in the ring

Maggie, being led by Lotta Hensel (Holger’s daughter) was rewarded with a “V” in the preliminary round and called back with the other females in Ring #4 for the selection of ten from those females that received “V” in that ring. Maggie was the second called to the center and we knew she had made the top twenty. Each female ring selects their best ten and then the twenty are paired to ten. When the process to pair the group of twenty down to ten the Judges change. Some of the Judges from the Rüde ring now are involved in the selection process. Again Maggie was called to the center second and we knew she would be in the top ten.

Getting a dog in the top twenty is great and we have been fortunate to have previously accomplished that six times. Getting into the top ten is really an honor and this would be our fifth. Now with ten in the ring everyone is beautiful and the Judges have their work cut out for themselves. First they will select five and excuse the others. Again Maggie is called to the center second and we knew she would be used in the top five, what an honor! After the others are thanked and excused the judges get down to it. The dogs start around and they have Maggie in the second spot for the first two laps then they move her to first, but it’s way too early to get excited. Over the next laps the second and third dogs are switched and the fourth and fifth and also switched in order. Then, Michael Hammerer stops them and Maggie is still standing in the first position. Maggie vom Trocken Bach has just been evaluated as the “V1” Hündin at the 43rd Dr. Kleemann Prüfung!!! Lotta had done



Maggie vom Trocken Bach “V1” Hündin 2018
Dr. Kleemann Prüfung

an outstanding job presenting Maggie. She is fourteen years old and this was the first dog she led at the Kleemann. She is 100% leading V1 dogs, an accomplishment that will never be bested.



(L to R) Hubertus Krieger, Holger Hensel, Michael Hammerer, Gerd Schad, (kneeling) Lotta Hensel with Maggie

Congratulations and lots of pictures followed, at that point it seems as if half the crowd (including myself) fancy themselves as photographers. We never imagined that Maggie would be “V1”. We have been fortunate to have made the top five twice before but this was special. We owned Maggie’s grandmother Rosemarie KS vom Hege-Haus, her grandfather Quickstep vom Hege-Haus, her mother Dakota KS vom Trocken Bach, and her father Darwin KS vom Hege-Hof. As good as this felt and as special as it was ahead came the field and water work. It seems that every Kleemann two or three of the numbered “V” dogs, both male and female, don’t pass, we didn’t want to add to that legacy.

That evening there was a very nice welcome party in the big hall and needless to say some people were enjoying cold beer and good food. By now talk had turned from the Zuchtschau to the field and water work that lay ahead. Some groups would have to travel long distances and other more fortunate groups would test much closer. As I stated earlier, Friday morning you need to be at the meeting location early. Therefore, we left the party early and drove to our meeting location to be sure we knew where to go. Unfortunately, the address we entered into the GPS was not correct and we had a problem. Luckily we found a fire station that was conducting drills and one of the firefighters led us to the location and we entered the coordinates. We were ready for the morning.

Jim and his Group had the same meeting location as we did in Group #20. In all there were at least five groups gathering there. Where Francois and Julie were I have no idea. There would be about 34 groups meeting through the area, some even taking ferry boats to their testing areas. Upon arrival at the meeting location the Klub members directed you to your parking area and you waited for the direction to move out. This would be the last time you see the other groups until we get back to the headquarters.



Group #20

In our area there were nice big fields with limited cover but not a lot of game. Each dog would work once in the field before we would leave for the water. Holger Hensel was leading Maggie and he was all business at this point. We knew there weren't many birds in the fields but lots of rabbits and roe deer, opportunity for trouble was everywhere. All the dogs

did well on the first work with two finding rabbits to point. Maggie and the fourth dog had to navigated deer jumping up and running off but nothing to point. On to the water.

The water was large and the cover on the edges was great. Everyone was instructed to remain on the road and only the judges and leader would go with each dog down to the water. Maggie was second to go and we could see very little from the road but we could hear the gun, two different times. We weren't sure what was going on but we knew she had found the duck. Finally Holger and Maggie appeared on the road and he slapped his leg with his cap. I asked Lotta if that was good or bad, she wasn't sure??????

Holger went to the car and was concerned about Maggie's right hind foot as she had been thrashing in the reeds. He was very satisfied with her work and confident she had passed the water. The other dogs worked and the Judges called everyone to the road to receive the news. Three of the four dogs had passed. One would come back tomorrow as she had not been evaluated behind the duck. Maggie, for her efforts had been rewarded with a 4h for work behind the duck. Now back to the field.

The field work continued throughout the afternoon. Still no birds and fewer rabbits. Finally, we went to a sugar beet field where they said there would be pheasants. This was important because Maggie needed to point a bird and stand for the gun. She would go first into this field. About sixty percent of the way through the field she went on point. As



Holger Hensel and Frank O'Leary with Maggie after successful completion of KS

Holger approached a bird flushed to her right – the gunner didn't shoot even as the Judges encouraged him to do so. Maggie never moved and after I got over the urge to chock the gunner I realized there must still be a bird there. Holger moved closed and another pheasant rose, still no shoot, the judges yelled at the gunner to shoot and finally he fired. Maggie never moved and she had pointed and stood for the gun. Holger released her and shortly she went on point again. Holger approached and another pheasant rose and as one would suspect, the gunner didn't fire once again. The Judges told Holder on line and her test was complete.

I was a nerve racking day, the water had gone better than one could have hoped for and the field work became an adventure with the lack of game but all worked out and Holger and Maggie were rewarded with the KS Title.

Back at the headquarters Jim informed me that he too had been successful and Szafir z Czarnego Dworu had received the KS Title.

On Saturday the Presentation of KS Champions took place with each successful dog and leader being presented to the crowd. This was new in 2018 and actually very nice. Saturday evening is the Awards Dinner and everyone is recognized for their accomplishments.

It was a very nice Kleemann, really well organized. Hubertus Krieger and his committee need to be congratulated for making it so successful.