



Jeff Hardin

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The 18th Annual International Day of the Dwarf in Tiel, The Netherlands is now in the history books. There were over 875 Dwarf animals entered by 177 Exhibitors from throughout Europe.

This was my 5th consecutive year of attending this exhibition and once again this year, the International Dwarf of the Dwarf was a very well-organized exhibition due to the hard work and dedication of the members of the Nationale Polen en Kleurdwergenclub (NPKC) in The Netherlands and the secretary for the exhibition, [Michel Zonneveld](#). The exhibition had a very large attendance by both exhibitors and breeders from Europe who came to enjoy the exhibition. It was a great day filled with fellowship and a lot of great conversations about rabbits and the hobby we all enjoy. Anyone who has never attend this exhibition is missing out on a Great opportunity to learn and share ideas with some of the Top Dwarf breeders in the World. I always learn something new at this exhibition and I have been fortunate to make many special friendships from attending it. These friendships are the best part of this hobby for me.

The International Day of the Dwarf consists of 3 simultaneous shows being judged by 3 different Standards. There was a Dutch Standard based show where each entered animal was judged by a Dutch Judge. There was an International Show based on the European Standard where each entered animal was judged by a Team of two judges from two different counties. And, there was a U.K. Show which was based on the BRC Standard and it was judged by 4 Judges from the U.K.. Each Exhibitor could choose in which show to exhibit each of their animals. Some Exhibitors only showed animals in one of the three types of shows, while other exhibitors entered animals in all 3 of the different types of shows.

I had the pleasure of judging the Black and Chocolate Dwarfs in International Show. This year, my judging team colleague was a good friend and one of the Judges from The Netherlands, Mr. [Jorn Westerlaken](#). We had a busy day of judging and we recommended one Black Buck for a Point Score of 97 points and our recommendation was approved by the Obmann, the Supervising Judge.

Both the Dutch Standard based Show and the International Show based on the European Standard involved animals being judged one at a time and given a Point Score based on the respective Standards.

In the Dutch Standard based Show, the Dutch Judge could award an animal up a maximum of 97.5 points. and in the International Show, the two Judge Team could only award an animal up to a maximum of 96.5 points. In the International Show, the 2 Judge Team must get the approval of the Obmann (Chairman), Mr. [Thomas Rieswick](#), who supervised the Judges in the International Show. The Obmann can approve a maximum score of up to 97.5 points for an individual animal.

Judges in the International Show must also have the approval of the Obmann, to Disqualify an animal or if they want to deduct more than 1.5 points in a single scoring position.

At the end of the day, teams of 3 Judges selected the Best Animal from among the top scoring animals in each of the 3 Shows. The Best in the Dutch Show was a Blue Dwarf Doe. The Best in the International Show was a Black Otter Dwarf Buck. The Best in the U.K. Show was a REW Buck. During this end of day judging to determine the best animal in each of the three shows, the judging Team has the ability to raise the scores of the top animals if they believe their quality warrants it. The judging teams raised the Black Otter Buck's score to 98 Points and by the end of all of the day's judging the Blue Doe's score was raised to 98.5 points. The 3 Best animals of the 3 Shows then competed against each other for the Best of the Show award.

The Best in Show judging was done by a Team of 3 Judges which included Mr. Ab de Vos the Hoofdkeurmeester or Head Judge for Dutch Standard based Show, Mr. Thomas Rieswick, the Obmann for the International Show, and me. As in previous years before, it was a Great Honor for me to be asked to be a part of the 3 Judge Best in Show judging Team. The Blue Dwarf Doe which was selected as the best animal in the Dutch Standard based Show was selected as the Best Animal in all of the Shows followed by the Black Otter Buck.

I had a **Wonderful time** again this year and I look forward to returning again in 2021.

Due to judging, I don't have the normal amount of pictures to post as my time was spend accessing animals. Thank You to those share their pics with me, Rita, [Lars Herrmann](#), and others.

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