



BORDER COLLIE CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 MARCH 2015 At Willington Village Hall Twyford Road, Willington, DE65 6DE

PRESENT: Pete Simmons (Chair), Doug Collier (Treasurer), Louise Collier, Tracey Wilkinson, Annette Walters, Pat Ward, Voirrey Paesler, Rachel Spencer, Gordon Ravenscroft, Margaret Ravenscroft, Bob Tunnicliff, Bob Henry, Julie Barrett, Yvonne Strachan, Jill Spurr, Pat Wilkinson & Anita Gowing (Secretary).
Barbara Henry was present as a non-member spectator.

The meeting opened at 11.00 am, with Peter Simmons in the Chair.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Marion Hopkinson (President), Lorna Hastings-Menaker, Ron Menaker, Hilary Kerr, Julie Morewood, Josie Large, Annette Thompson, Sue Gillingwater, Joanna Lake, Juliette Wettern, Paul Bloomfield, Phil Surridge, Kathie Kinton, Dave Kinton & Penny Forster-Cooper.

2. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 30 MARCH 2014**

Apologies from Penny Forster-Cooper had been omitted.

Subject to this amendment, the Minutes were approved as an accurate record – Proposed by Pat Ward and seconded by Annette Walters. Abstentions from those not present at the 2014 meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

- Tracey asked for clarification of the change to Rule 18 change regarding lapel badges.

4. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Pete thanked everyone for making the effort to attend the meeting. 2014 had been a long and sometimes hard year, but our goal has been achieved and we now have a well organised committee. Pete also thanked his Secretary for her support.

The Open Show, POTY & VOTY were a great success, thanks to the committee and Border Collie folk who gave us an excellent entry.

The 2015 Year Book is one of the best for a few years and feedback is encouraging. There are some things that can be improved and we appreciate the input from members.

The 2015 Championship Show has drawn a great entry. This year we will be doing our own catering as Tracey has passed the necessary Food Hygiene exam.

We held a very good Handling Day with Marina Scott in 2014 and we hope to organise another soon.

At the end of March 2015 we are hosting a Breed Seminar and Judging Assessment, which will include a grooming demonstration.

To sum up, thank you to all members – old and new – for their continued support. We are trying to bring the fun back into showing and owning a Border Collie; and trying to make your day as enjoyable as possible – win or lose.

5. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Anita explained that a progress update on the Action Plan would form the basis of her report.

- Open Show 2014 – We took on board feedback and scheduled a Special Working Class which included the SBCHT as a qualifying criterion and we also offered free NFC entries. Our two judges drew a fantastic entry of 205 between them, which presented quite a challenge for the show management team. We had a KC Field Officer inspection and received an 'Excellent' grade. Everything went extremely well with lots of positive

feedback.

- POTY, VOTY 2014 – Held on the same day as the Open Show, POTY had the full complement of entries and VOTY had 26 veterans. The same format of a single judge and four classes was adopted for both events and we managed to get everything finished ahead of schedule.
- Championship Show 2015 – Schedules were available in November 2014 and we are again in the East Hall, which although more expensive to hire is larger than the West Hall and includes a Meeting Room. Our judges have drawn an excellent entry of 242 between them.
- Review of the Club Rules – this has been completed and proposals are to be tabled at this meeting. The suggested changes are intended to make the Rules fit for purpose in the 21st Century and to allow a little more flexibility in some areas.
- Correct the Judges and Membership Lists – these reviews were completed soon after the new committee took over and both lists are now maintained on a regular basis. We do ask judges and members to let us know of any changes to their contact details.
- Improve communication – this was a major objective for the committee and we have set up Facebook Groups for Members only, Shows & Events and the Year Book. This is proving to be a very useful medium for getting information to a large number of people and also for encouraging members to participate in discussions. We do recognise that not everyone has internet access, so the Newsletter remains a key method of communication to these individuals.
- Website Maintenance – the website is now regularly maintained in-house by myself. Members & non-members are directed to the website for various items of news and information and we monitor traffic on a regular basis to assess which items are most popular.
- Ways to increase membership – another key objective and we have considered ways to add ‘value’ to membership of the Club. We have given every paid up member a free copy of the 2015 Year Book, which has been achieved by changing our printing company, undertaking all the preparatory work in-house and offering advertising to a wider sector. In-house compilation is no mean task, but is necessary if the publication is to remain viable. Other financial incentives include discounted Year Book advertising for members, subsidy for B12 testing, cheaper show entries and discounted fees for the Handling Day. At the time of the 2014 AGM we had approximately 170 members, today we have 225.
- Increase number of committee members – during 2014 we co-opted six new members, four of which are standing for election today. More new members are welcomed.
- Newsletter – The newsletter was re-launched with the Summer 2014 edition, with both online digital and pdf versions. The majority of members receive the newsletter via email and it is also published on the FB Members’ Group. Some members receive a hardcopy. The second edition was issued in the Autumn 2014 and we plan to produce three editions in 2015.
- Options for events in disciplines other than breed – this objective is ‘work in progress’ and we are looking at an option for 2016 but details have not yet been discussed.
- Continue to support the PBHF - we have provided a modest subsidy of £1 per dog for members testing for B12 at the various PBHF clinics during 2014 – numerically this equates to 73 dogs tested. The subsidy will continue in 2015. Assistance with swabbing was provided at the September 2014 clinic.

On behalf of the committee, Anita thanked all the members for their continued support; feedback on the 2015 Year Book is positive and thank you to all those who advertised and made the book possible. The committee will be reviewing the success of the 2015 edition and plans for the 2016 issue.

On a personal note, Anita thanked her fellow committee members for their support. Running the Club is no easy task; many of the committee have day jobs and we all have our own lives. We do our best to get things right first time and serve the members to the best of our abilities.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

2014 was a busy and testing year for the Club. Three Officers (all account signatories) stood down at the AGM and this posed real difficulties for the Treasurer. The Club should in future try and avoid this situation and attempt to retain at least two signatories.

Crufts Discover Dogs was manned by the Club for all four days. The Club also had a stall ringside on Breed day, manned by our regular team.

The March Championship Show was very successful and turned in a profit. Our re-arranged AGM was held at the end of March and an Obedience show run by Juliette Wettern, our out-going Secretary, was again profitable. Juliette did a particularly good job of running this show and the Club thanks her again for her efforts.

At the end of October we held our best ever Open Show along with Puppy and Veteran Of The Year. We received an 'Excellent' grade from the KC Field Officer at these events.

In November we hosted the Handling Day with Marina Scott – another successful event which generated a surplus.

November and December were focussed on the Year Book, which for the first time was put together by an in-house team. This saved considerable art work and compilation costs, which were passed on in cheaper advertising rates. It has proved to be a lovely book.

Two decisions made at the 2014 AGM will have considerable bearing on the Club's financial position.

- All old Year Book stock to be written off – this amounted to £7,631.16 and is shown in the 2014 accounts.
- Every Club member to receive a free Year Book – this has no bearing on the 2014 accounts, but will impact on future years.

2014 also saw the distribution of the surplus from the cancelled 2013 Obedience Show.

Doug commented that the Club had moved up a level and thanked the new Secretary. All Shows and events had turned in a surplus, which together with an increase in membership has helped to offset the write-off of the Year Books, reducing the overall deficit for the year.

The 2014 Accounts were adopted – proposed by Voirrey Paesler and seconded by Rachel Spencer; all in favour.

7. **OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

- President – Marion Hopkinson nominated unopposed and her re-election was confirmed with all in favour.
- Chairperson – Peter Simmons nominated unopposed and his re-election was confirmed with all in favour.
- Secretary – Anita Gowing nominated unopposed and his re-election was confirmed with all in favour.
- Treasurer – Doug Collier nominated unopposed and his re-election was confirmed with all in favour.
- Vice Chair – Mrs Pat Ward had not stood for re-election and the Club thanks her for her many years served as Vice Chair. Nominations had been received for Ms Annette Walters and Mr Gary Clarke. The result of the postal ballot is Annette Walters, 37 votes; Gary Clarke, 28 votes. Annette Walters is therefore elected as Vice Chair.
- Committee – Paul Bloomfield, Louise Collier and Natalie Holtappel remain on the committee. Pat Ward has been nominated for committee. Co-optee Julie Morewood has withdrawn her nomination and other co-optees Sue Gillingwater, Jill Spurr, Phil Surridge and Tracey Wilkinson have been nominated for committee. All nominations were agreed.

8. **PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW OF THE RULES**

Previously notified to all members. Proposed by Doug Collier and seconded by Louise Collier.

(Text to be removed is shown in ~~strike through~~; new or replacement text is underlined)

3 MEMBERSHIP – Membership is open to all and persons wishing to enrol as members will, having been supplied with a copy of the Club's Code of Ethics and Rules, ~~will~~ automatically be

regarded as having accepted such Code and Rules and agree to be bound by ~~it~~ them.

4 THE FINANCIAL YEAR shall begin on 1 January each year and end on the last day of December of the same year. The annual subscription shall be payable ~~to the Honorary Treasurer~~ each year. No member whose subscription is unpaid shall be entitled to any of the privileges of membership and ~~any member failing to pay the annual subscription by 1 May next, the committee shall have the power to erase his name from the register of members~~ the committee shall have the power to erase from the register of members any member failing to pay the annual subscription by the 1st of May next.

8 c) The committee of twenty one shall continue in office until the next Annual General Meeting, when one third i.e. seven members (according to their position in the rota) shall retire, but are eligible for re-election. The rota being kept up to date by the Chairman. All vacancies to be filled by voting at the Annual General Meeting.

Notifications for Officers and 1/3 full Committee of 21, be proposed by any member of the Club provided that the nominations are notified to the Hon. Secretary in writing by 31st December, together with the name of the proposer and seconder, and the nominee's agreement to stand. The names of all persons seeking election together with the proposer and seconder will be included in the AGM notice and circulated to all members prior to the AGM. All formal notices are sent by post except where the member has specifically agreed to accept communication of notices by email.

10 TREASURER - The Treasurer shall take charge of all monies of the Club, and shall open an account in the name of the Club with a bank approved by the committee of management. He/she shall issue a receipt to all members for their subscriptions and only if requested for any other monies received. He/she shall produce all books, documents and vouchers relating thereto and hand them over to the auditor and committee of management. He/she shall keep a suitable Cash Book authorized by the auditor and committee of management. The Club must make a list of members and their addresses available for inspection if so requested by the members of the Club or by The Kennel Club. ~~All payments will be made by cheque and no cheque shall be valid unless it bears~~ Cheques must be signed by any two of the following four officers signatures:- President, Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary.

12 f) A resume of the minutes of the meeting of the committee of the Border Collie Club of Great Britain and the Breed Council ~~and the Breed Council Health Sub-Committee~~ shall be published in the Club's Newsletter and/or on the Club's website.

14 NEW RULES - The rules of the Club shall not be altered except at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, and such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised, and given its approval of the alterations. New Rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately and be included in the Society's Constitution with effect from the Society's annual meeting. Notice of proposition and amendment must be given to the Secretary in writing, and signed by the member or members proposing and seconding the amendment by 31 December, and the Secretary shall notify such proposed amendment ~~by posting~~ to the members at least five weeks before such a meeting (see Rule 8 c) above).

All changes were approved unanimously.

9. **PROPOSAL BY DOUG COLLIER**

The Club's subscription has been £7.50 single, £9 joint and £10 Family and Overseas since 2004. It was agreed by the Club over thirty years ago that 50p should be levied from the subscription and set aside as a donation to a Rescue organisation chosen annually by the Club.

The income from membership subscriptions has been falling over the last few years and stood at £1,230 in 2013 before the deduction of the levy. The 2014 accounts have not yet been certified by the auditor but I believe that income has increased slightly.

Costs have increased during the last ten years, particularly when the Club agreed to double the honorariums two years ago from £795 to £1465 and this year when it was decided to give all members a free yearbook. The 2015 Yearbook has been funded by considerable 'in house' labour to keep the production very cheap and income from advertisers has contributed. That may not always apply. This year's book will sell for £15. It will therefore appear that we are giving away a very generous gift to our members. I propose that it is time we reviewed the level of subscriptions. Without doubt our members get the best deal of any Club.

Please can these proposals be discussed at the AGM on 1 March.

Proposal A – The Rescue levy on all memberships to cease. (The Club has a Rescue Fund which is available for the Committee to use as they decide.)

Proposal B – to increase the subscriptions

Single from £7.00 to £8.50

Joint from £8.50 to £10.50

Family and Overseas from £10 to £12.

Proposal C – to charge a joining fee for new members of - Single £3, Joint £4 and Family and Overseas £5.

Members who let their membership lapse for a period of more than two years should be charged a joining fee when they rejoin.

If any changes are made to subscriptions at the 2015 AGM then they will not come into force until 2016.

Doug spoke to his item and a debate took place regarding the pros and cons of the proposals. Jill Spurr commented that the wording of the Rescue 'Levy' should be reconsidered. Bob Tunnicliff asked why it was necessary to increase subscriptions.

Doug's Proposal A was not seconded and Bob Tunnicliff offered a counter-proposal to leave membership fees as they are. This was seconded by Tracey Wilkinson and carried unanimously.

Jill's suggestion to change the word 'Levy' to 'Contribution' was also agreed

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Pat Wilkinson proposed that the Secretary's honorarium be increased to reflect the work being carried out. This was seconded by Gordon Ravenscroft and it was agreed to increase the amount from £300 to £500.
- Bob Tunnicliff commented that the 2015 Year Book is brilliant. However, on the negative he felt that POTY & VOTY was rushed, particularly by running them concurrently, which he felt was a mistake. Pat Wilkinson disagreed, saying that it was a good event. Tracey welcomed the feedback and advised that it had already been discussed briefly and that committee would be considering ways to make the events 'special'.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.