



**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5 MARCH 2017
At Willington Village Hall
Twyford Road, Willington, DE65 6DE**

PRESENT: Marion Hopkinson (President), Pete Simmons (Chair), Annette Walters (Vice Chair), Tracey Wilkinson, Lisa Newman, Richard Newman, Glynis Dowson, Colin Dowson, Yvonne Simmons, Hannah Fawcett, Phil Surridge, Nik Knight, Jill Spurr, Ann Jordan, Bob Henry, Rachel Spencer, Gordon Ravenscroft, Margaret Ravenscroft, Joanna Lake, Pat Wilkinson, Pat Hales, Lyndsay Mann & Anita Gowing (Secretary).

David Hopkinson was present as a spectator.

Marion Hopkinson opened the meeting at 11.00 am.

1. APOLOGIES

Val Hawker, Pauline Lawrence, Dora Mann, Voirrey Paesler, Doug Collier, Louise Collier, Julie Barratt, Pat Ward, Pat Day & Liz Barwick.

Marion welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Doug's contribution to the Club right from the very start. Doug is held in high esteem by everyone.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 6 MARCH 2016

The Minutes were approved as an accurate record – Proposed by Phil Surridge and seconded by Glynis Dowson.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- None raised.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Firstly thank you all for turning up this morning for the AGM of BCCGB.

OK, so it's been a long and at times hard year, but on the whole a good one. On a sad note we have had two of our long term committee members resign from their positions due to ill health; firstly Pat Ward, a committee member for many years and a great asset to the Club, not just at our shows but also at Crufts on the BCCGB stand and always ready to add comment and suggestions to the committee. I wish Pat well as I'm sure all the committee feel the same.

So to Doug; as you all know Doug has not been well and after serious consideration he has decided to step down from the Treasurer's post. Doug will remain on the committee and we have a few ideas how to keep him further involved with BCCGB.

Now for the year – and what a year. In March we had the first to my knowledge a double header of property classes on the Saturday which was a great success. On the Saturday night we held our 40th Anniversary dinner – hard work and effort behind the scenes by a few people, not all committee members either, but watching folks having fun and enjoying themselves with no politics was well worth all the hard work; it reminded me a bit like Christmas day in the trenches – everyone forgot their differences and enjoyed themselves. Sunday was the Champ show which was another great success and hard work as usual. These shows are a success because we now have a good age spread across the committee and all are willing to muck in and do their bit, which is great to see; let's keep this going, I thank you all.

We also held a couple of workshops, which to me are so much fun and folks turn up wanting to learn and improve. We held a great handling day and a grooming day; both a great success and we made a small profit.

Pup & Veteran Of The Year show was our biggest test to date during my time as Chairman. We attracted a massive entry for the show and the same for pup & veteran of the year, plus we were

hindered by traffic problems getting into the show area itself. We tried to be as professional as we could during the day and we managed to see it through. We took on board the views and comments from members – some good, some un-called for – but we didn't sit back and let it die down; we acted immediately. From the Sunday evening until the middle of the following week myself, Anita and committee discussed this on a forum and decided to venture as it used to be to hold pup & veteran of the year on its own. So this has been sorted.

Looking at this year's Ch. Show entry we are going to be in for a brilliant show, but I'm sure all the committee will muck in again and make the show a success for one and all.

So just to wind up, thank you to my committee; to Anita and Tracey who love to bully the Chairman and keep him on his toes, and to Vronnie for being the support and rock behind me.

So let's not rest on our laurels; let's keep the club at the top of its game as we are the Premier Club. Thank you.

5. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

With the Club's 40th anniversary of KC registration and it also being 'our turn' to host the Border Collie Of The Year event, 2016 was always going to be a busy year.

Our successes began at Crufts where we had our usual stand adjacent to the breed rings on pastoral day and we were delighted to win the award for Best Breed Stand. We also organised the Discover Dogs booth for the duration of the show and all the hard work paid off when we were awarded Best Pastoral Booth & Overall Runner Up. Our thanks must go to everyone who played a part in these achievements.

Much planning went into the anniversary weekend in March in order to make it a memorable experience for everyone involved. The Special Properties Event was a first for the breed in the UK and we were very pleased to have breed specialist Sheila Gay as our judge. Likewise for Border Collie Of The Year we were honoured to have two very respected judges, breed specialist Judith Gregory and all-rounder Monica Boggia-Black, to assess the competitors. The gala dinner brought together many folk from the border collie world and we were delighted to have so many overseas visitors to make it a truly international affair. The Championship Show brought the celebrations to a fitting conclusion with an excellent entry for judges Helena Hutchings-Brooks and Ali Chainey.

The summer months tend to be our 'quiet time' and although it was difficult to find a mutually acceptable date, we were pleased to once again be able to host a herding day with Nij Vyas. We also ran a modest anniversary agility show in August and launched a photographic competition judged by pro dog photographer Nick Ridley.

In the last quarter we hosted another sell-out handling day with Marina Scott. Our final events of the year were the Open Show and Puppy & Veteran Of The Year, which have traditionally been held on the same day in November. Over the last couple of years, with increasing entries, it has become more difficult to comfortably accommodate these three events into one day and in 2016 various circumstances beyond our control conspired to make life difficult for us. We managed to get through the day, but it was very apparent that something had to change. The committee wasted no time in de-briefing and decided to give the Puppy & Veteran Of The Year events their own day. However, finding a suitable date and venue proved to be a challenge, but eventually everything was sorted out and a formal announcement made on Social media. We received much positive feedback to the decision and we hope that the Open show and 'Of The Year' events will continue to be well supported in 2017 and beyond.

For the editorial team, production of the Year Book effectively takes up the remainder of the year. Once again we had an excellent response by advertisers, which makes it possible to produce a quality publication included as part of the annual membership, as well as being on general sale at Crufts.

One of our objectives back in 2014 when the new officers and committee were elected, was to give value to our membership. The changes to the compilation of the year book were a good start and we are now into the third edition under the new regime, which is working well. The workshops and seminars are also proving popular and our breed shows continue to be well supported with the anniversary weekend being the icing on the cake.

Once again we have raised the bar, making 2016 a truly memorable year and we are fulfilling our commitment to our members.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Anita presented Doug's report on his behalf:-

It was a busier year than usual for the Club, being the Club's 40th birthday year.

Celebrations were planned which culminated in a grand party for members and enthusiasts of the breed in all their finery. The Club subsidised the event. It was also the year in the seven or eight year cycle when the Club hosted the Border Collie Of The Year event.

Events held in the year:

The Discover Dogs stand at Crufts was manned for the four days of the show and the Club had a stand beside the ring on Pastoral Group day, distributing and selling our 2016 year book and other goods.

On 19 March there were three events held – the Special Properties, Border Collie Of The Year and then in the evening a Gala Dinner with drinks and dancing. On 20 March the Club held its prestigious Championship Show.

In June we once again held a Herding Day. In August we held a two day Agility Show, a friendly event but at a financial loss. On 1 October there was a Handling Day. The final events of the year were the Open Show followed by Puppy & then Veteran Of The Year on 12 November.

We again produced a year book which was first produced in 1981 and maintains its popularity.

The Club released money from its Special Rescue Fund to help the rescue services. £1,000 was given to Border Collie Spot and £500 to Border Collie and Sheepdog Rescue. We also gave Border Collie and Sheepdog Rescue the levy from the membership fees as usual which amounted to £180. A donation of £200 was made to young Samantha Pegg to help her to compete with her dog in an agility event abroad.

Two significant donations were made to the Club – the President gave £50 and the former secretary of the Club, Jim Collins, gave a rare book which raised £210 when sold for the Club's Rescue Fund.

A photographic competition was held and the winning photo is on the front cover of the 2017 year book. The competition raised £106.38 and rosettes worth £30.99 were given to the winning entries in each class.

As part of the Club's anniversary celebration, a photo backdrop was purchased for £290 and an advertising banner for £72. Both will be used at future Club events and will depreciated over some years. As an outright gift to members we gave car stickers which cost £116.43.

In addition to Doug's report, Anita gave a review of membership numbers over the last few years. At the end of 2016 membership stood at 255, compared to 146 at the end of 2013. In 2014, the first year for the newly elected committee, membership increased by 45% and continues to grow year on year although not at the same rate. Membership currently is 275 paid up members.

7. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Marion thanked the Secretary for her work during the year.

- President – Nomination received for re-election of Mrs Marion Hopkinson unopposed.
- Chairperson - Nomination received for re-election of Mr Peter Simmons unopposed.
- Secretary - Nomination received for re-election of Miss Anita Gowing unopposed.
- Treasurer - Mr Doug Collier has decided to step down as Treasurer. The committee will now decide on a successor.
- Vice-Chair - Nomination received for re-election of Ms Annette Walters unopposed.

Committee - the following committee members remain:- Julie Barratt, Louise Collier, Colin Dowson, Glynis Dowson, Hannah Fawcett, Lisa Newman, Richard Newman, Yvonne Simmons. Jill Spurr, Phil Surridge and Tracey Wilkinson.

The following has been nominated for committee:- Nik Knight.

The officer and committee positions were confirmed with all in favour.

8. PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW OF THE RULES

Previously notified to all members.

Proposed by Doug Collier and seconded by Anita Gowing. (Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~)

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

The proposal was agreed.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Jill thanked Tracey for her wonderful catering at the Club's various events.
- Tracey raised the issue of the recent cruelty case involving a Border Collie breeder. Discussion took place & there was agreement for more robust rules for cases of cruelty. Jill tabled a form of words as follows:-
“In the event that any member or potential member is found guilty in a court of law of cruelty, or the Club is aware of significant evidence that any person is compromising the health & well-being of any animal, the Club may take the following action:-
 - a) Refusal of membership and/or expulsion from the Club
 - b) Refusal of entry & attendance at any event held or endorsed by the Club.”

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Kennel Club asking for approval of the wording & for this Rule to be adopted.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am.