

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE LABRADOR BREED COUNCIL HELD IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE KENNEL CLUB AFTER THE A.G.M ON 14th APRIL 2011.

1. To approve the minutes of the General Meeting of the Labrador Breed Council held after the A.G.M on 15th April 2010.

WELRC wanted item 13c) on last year's minutes amended for suggestion carried as there were a confusion on how to count abstentions. After some discussion it was proposed by LRW that this proposal was reworded and put forward for next meeting and the minutes to remain unaltered.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved proposed by Mrs Maureen D'Arcy (NWLRC) and seconded by Mrs Marion Hopkinson (MCLRC) with all in favour.

The Chairman signed the minutes as correct.

2. Matters arising

It was queried NWLRC and clarified by Secretary that the minutes were to be put onto the LBC website in full AFTER they have been approved. It was agreed to get the minutes on website up to date and 2008, 2009 & 2010 minutes should be up there asap.

LCW queried what if anything had happened regarding the minutes from 2009 new breed standard meetings and further development from this. As nothing had developed it was proposed by MCLRC that all clubs which held a breed standard meeting/discussion to forward these minutes to the Secretary asap. Once these have been collected by the secretary she will circulate to all clubs for further comments. It was also suggested we ask Richard Edwards, our foremost breed historian to give a short statement on the breed standard – secretary to seek his willingness to do this.

NWLRC queried if there had been any progress on the LBC web puppy site. Fiona Braddon our website co-ordinator answered that a list of names for all the club's puppy co-ordinators had been obtained from the Secretary and will be on this site in the near future. A short discussion followed where it was agreed to keep this site very simple. Websites of all breed clubs and the names and contact details of the 13 breed clubs puppy co-ordinators and a brief referral to the KC Website.

3. Breed Council Liaison Council Report

Mrs Shelagh Walton (our Breed Liaison Council Representative) was invited into the meeting to report on the last meetings of the Breed Liaison Council. The Breed Liaison Council met twice last year. At the May meeting we were informed that the Kennel Club is working on a Veterinary Manual to be circulated to as many veterinary practices as possible. This manual will include details of recommended health tests on a breed by breed basis, guidance on what the Kennel Club offers and information stressing the Kennel Club's primary objective of addressing canine health issues. The key objective of the manual is to provide a source of information that will assist dog breeders and veterinary surgeons in bridging the gaps in knowledge that sometimes exists. It will also assist in informing veterinary practices about the services that the Kennel Club offer and further promote the Accredited Breeder Scheme and the Kennel Club in general. I understand that the manuals are now ready and being circulated.

The question of photography at shows was discussed. Concern was expressed that it was becoming increasingly common for photos to be published on the internet, particularly on sites such as facebook and personal websites. Whilst it was considered that for the majority of people this was an enjoyable way to showcase their interest, concern was expressed that this could and has led to photos being misused to discredit individuals. It was felt that whilst it may be unreasonable to prevent people video recording the performance of their own dogs the rights of others should be respected and should the use of the video become invasive and unwelcome then the user should

abide by any request or direction to cease. The Council requested that the Kennel Club issue guidance on photography and video rights at shows so that Societies may publish them in the schedule and/or catalogue as they see fit.

The following matters were also discussed at the meetings and went forward for consideration by the appropriate committees:-

‘That the Kennel Club will not approve Export Pedigrees of dogs to any country without legislation for the protection of animals from cruelty, similar in content to such laws in Great Britain and which has no reciprocal agreement with the Kennel Club.’ The Breed Liaison Council was of the view that the Kennel Club should attempt to form a dialogue with the relevant overseas Kennel Clubs that represent countries which do not possess any animal welfare legislation, to address the issues of this proposal and influence and assist in education. This received full support.

‘That all general canine society invitations to judge at open show level should contain a clause not only requiring a prospective judge to confirm his/her inclusion on la breed club B/C list, but also specifying the name of that breed club/council.’ It was agreed that whilst most societies are explicit in their judging contracts, there are some that make no mention of judging lists when issuing invitations. This can sometimes lead to inexperienced judges judging more classes than they are actually qualified to do. This proposal was given the support of the council and has been referred to the appropriate sub-committee for consideration.

‘In order to encourage entries at open shows where no breed puppy class is scheduled, wins by a puppy in older classes (i.e. junior or above) should only count towards elimination from either maiden or novice classes if there are three or more dogs present.’ It was noted that many societies could not afford to put on Puppy Classes at their shows, which leads to puppies having to enter into Junior. The Council deemed it unfair that many puppies were immediately qualifying out of Maiden and Novice once they are too old for puppy classes, as they had won a Junior Class. Having considered the content of the proposal, the Council noted that this could be difficult to police, but in order to allow a level playing field for puppies, it gave its support.

The next meeting of the Liaison Council is on the 25th May. The agendas are now out for this meeting. If any individuals, Breed Clubs or the Breed Council wish to put a proposal forward for the November meeting I need to have it by the 24th August. Mr Richard Stafford gave thanks to Mrs Shelagh Walton for attending the meeting and giving her report.

4. Breed Council Health Sub-committee report

Mrs Marion Hopkinson (one of our Breed Health Representatives to the Kennel Club) informed the room that the Kennel Club would like an overall survey of all breeds. Mrs Joy Venturi-Rose had put together a survey questionnaire available to all exhibitors at Crufts and other shows but it had not been well responded to. Club delegates felt it was not easy to follow and not anonymous enough. It was suggested that there are many statistics of Labrador health issues available and to that end Dr Sampson may well issue our breed with hard copies of the statistics he had made available to the previous health committee. Also the new Dog’s Life project are collecting a lot of information on Labrador health etc. at present so again suggested to invite a representative from Dog’s Life to meeting for feedback. After some discussion it was proposed that Mrs Marion Hopkinson Chair the health sub-committee meetings from now on and also set a date, time and place for the next meeting (between now and Christmas). KSS suggested that a secretary for this

meeting is sought from within the committee. Personally, Mrs Hopkinson felt there were no really pressing health issues that would require immediate attention but that it may be very useful for each individual health representative to collect data on one subject each i.e.; perhaps epilepsy might be surveyed as much as possible, cruciate ligaments, atopic skin problems and maybe which types of feeding may well bring about differing results in adult hood, there could be many areas that would possibly benefit the forward thinking of the health of future breeding. This was felt to be a good idea by all present

A brief discussion took place regarding the Accredited Breeders Scheme stand at Cruft's and the subsequent new tool for assessing breed health. Not all present were ofay with this and it was agreed to monitor this during the year and discuss further at next meeting and/or at health sub-committee meeting.

The issue of "Silver Labradors" were now raised by MCLRC and the secretary answered that she had written to the KC after last year's meeting and the KC had taken it to two meetings. The decision reached after the last meeting was that the KC are not prepared to omit Silver Labradors from registration as a Non Recognised colour as there is not enough evidence to say they are not pure bred Labradors. The secretary said that she had located two Silver Labradors who are direct imports from USA and the owner is willing for a DNA to be taken to try to establish whether 100% pure bred or not. All present agreed this was a good opportunity to try to get some evidence and it was agreed for the LBC to pay for the DNA tests. Proposed by Mrs Marion Hopkinson and seconded by Mrs Fiona Braddon with all in favour.

Proposals from Breed Clubs

5. The Yellow Labrador Club propose:-

a) The Yellow Labrador Club is concerned that there is a lack of standardisation in the way breed specific judging seminars are delivered. This can lead to differences in the assessment criteria used and the experience that candidates receive.

b) The Club is also concerned that with falling entries the criteria for potential championship show judges to qualify for the A3 list is becoming more difficult for candidates to achieve. The Club is also aware that the criteria is also out of alignment with KC criteria for Stud Book Band E breeds which focuses on dogs judged not classes. This means that the KC can (and do) pass judges who do not meet BC minimum criteria.

c) In addition the Club would like to see the development of assessment of potential championship show judges when they complete their breed club open shows. This point has been discussed on a number of occasions at the Breed Council but as yet no assessment scheme has been developed.

To address these issues the Yellow Labrador Club proposes that a working group, consisting of senior members of the breed with an understanding and experience of the assessment process is formed. The remit of this working group will be to produce a set of proposals by October 2011 for the respective breed clubs to consider. The proposals will cover the following.

Development of a standard set of assessment criteria for all breed specific seminars (including Judges Development programme organised by National Gundog).

Review the criteria for the Breed Council judging list and make recommendations to address the changes in the environment and align them with the KC criteria.

Develop an assessment criteria and system that can be implemented at breed club open shows.

It was agreed by all a template had to be set for the way the assessment of candidates at our breed specific seminars. It was agreed a small sub-committee was formed to address

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this and also to formulate an extended breed standard – explaining in an more depth points of the Labrador – only for our own use, not KC. The suggested names for this sub-committee are: Mrs Marion Hopkinson, Mrs Erica Jayes, Mrs Penny Carpanini and to extend an invitation to Mr Richard Edwards for his input. This committee to meet before the end of the year and come back to the LBC meeting next year with their suggestions. The proposal was seconded by LRC with all in favour.

It was pointed out by NWLRC that the KC is shortly to circulate their new criteria for running judges seminars.

NWLRC informed that their club had already formulated a scheme to assess judges at breed club open show level.

6. The Labrador Retriever Club of Wales has a number of proposals it wishes to make for discussion:-

- a) The Labrador Retriever Club of Wales wishes to propose that any clubs who are considering setting up breed seminars should forward details to the Council secretary in order that all clubs are aware of forthcoming events and therefore can prevent clashes and possible financial loss.**
- b) At the present time the content of advanced breed seminars vary enormously and therefore the Labrador Retriever Club of Wales proposes that the Breed Council appoints a sub-committee to formulate and issue guidelines as to the procedure and content of such seminars.**
- c) The Labrador Retriever Club of Wales proposes that limits placed on the number of litter registrations by the Kennel Club should be per establishment per year and not as at present per bitch per year.**

It was agreed that all Breed Clubs are to forward proposed breed seminars and dates to LBC secretary who can then circulate to other clubs to avoid possible clashes. When seminar and date is set this will be included on website. Item b had already been discussed under item 5.

Point c) was though most difficult to police and this question will be answered by our own government eventually.

7. Three Ridings LRC propose:-

- a) The Three Ridings feel that it is vital that the secretary has access to the judges' lists on the web site.**
- b) The Three Ridings feel that the annual subscription to the breed council should be paid to the Treasurer within one month of the Annual General meeting, so that the cheques can be sent out with the minutes and the list of expenses each club claims.**
- c) The Three Ridings feel that the health committee needs to disband as we have now got 2 health co-ordinators who could bring anything back to the Breed Council and also each individual club for discussion, and if there was anything serious a special meeting could be called, because at this moment a whole year has passed with nothing happening.**
- d) This club needs it confirming as we are on the understanding that only the B and C lists were to be updated twice a year. We feel that the only way for a secret vote for the most important A lists are at the annual general meeting, and it also doesn't leave the secretary in the position of anyone trying to find out which clubs had voted for a particular person.**

Item a) It was generally felt essential that the secretary is able to access the website for updating judges list etc. The secretary did say she had been shown how to by our website manager Mrs Fiona Braddon but found it much too complicated and there must be a simpler way to access and update. Secretary to liaise with Mrs Braddon to resolve this.

Item b) was agreed unanimously. All subs to be paid within one month of the meeting so the cheques for travelling expenses can be sent out at the same time as the minutes.

Item c) withdrawn.

Item d) It was clarified that the A-lists only gets updated in May after the AGM.

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The B and C- lists gets updated in May and October. The only other updates to judges lists in between will be removal of deceased judges. KSS queried if there was not previously agreed to have a second update of A 3 list which Secretary also thought was agreed but this was turned down as no evidence was found to support this at the time.

8. The KSS proposals were withdrawn as they had been covered in previous discussions.

9. THE LRC Propose:-

The Junior Warrant current rule (page 3.190 paragraph 3) in the KC red book merely states that "A minimum of 3 points must be won at a Championship Show". This can be in any class eg Maiden, the remainder of the 25 points could be won at Open Shows, the dog then is issued with a Stud Book number which is a permanent Crufts Qualification but the dog may have never qualified for Crufts through the breed classes.

a) We propose that the rule should be amended to read as follows:

Junior Warrant will be issued on application by the registered owner at the time of qualification in respect of a dog that has obtained 25 points whilst between the ages of 6 and 18 months. A minimum of 3 points must be won at a Championship Shows where Challenge Certificates are on offer from a Crufts Qualifying Class and a minimum of 3 points won at Open Shows or Championship Shows where Challenge Certificates are not offered for the breed.

After some discussion it was decided this was an item to be put forward for the Breed Council Liaison Council's agenda. Proposed by 3RLRC and seconded by LRC with all in favour.

To present the results of the vote on nominations for joining the Judges lists starting 31st May 2010.

The Chairman, Richard Stafford now urged all delegates to fill in the voting forms on A3 & A1 judges on behalf of their Clubs.

The votes were counted and the results as follows:-

Names to be added to the A3 (breed specialist) list

Mr Ken Roberts

Names to be added to the A1 Breed Specialist List

Mrs Sue Marskell

Mr Frank Gilroy

Mrs Julia Lewis

Mrs Liz Hallgarth

Mrs Lene Johansen

Mrs Carole Whitfield

Mrs Joan Walters

Unsuccessful applicants- Mrs Jo Wade and Mrs Lisa Weiss

Names to be added to the A1 Non-Breed Specialist List

Mr David Bell

Unsuccessful candidates: Mrs Fiona Coward –Scholes and Mrs B Sweigart.

Roll of Honour list

The Yellow Labrador Club proposed Mr Tony Pascoe for the list – to be added once confirmation of retirement from judging has been received.

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Any other business – MCLRC wanted a clarification on the counting of abstention votes – it was clarified that this vote does not count as a yes or no vote. It was a concern of the number of abstentions in the voting of judges and therefore MCLRC proposed that there could only be a Yes or No vote on judges and this was seconded by 3RLRC with all in favour. NWLRC wanted to add to this proposal that no names can be added to the voting for A1 lists after end of January and any abstention or unknown votes will be withdrawn this was seconded by 3RLRC with all in favour.

It was thought a good idea if the secretary write a standard letter to the unsuccessful candidates informing them of the situation.

The secretary informed the clubs present she thought it unfair that she was representing her club and also having to minute the meeting and therefore unable to participate in discussion. After some debate it was proposed by Mrs Pat Gill and seconded by Mr David Todd that there should be an independent non- voting scribe to take the minutes at the Labrador Breed Council meetings in future. All in favour.

There were some late additions to the agenda from The Labrador Club of Scotland that were now discussed at the Chairman's discretion.

1. The Labrador Club of Scotland would like to know why clubs are not voting when invited to do so with regard to applications for Judging Lists, particularly the A3 List applications.

2. The Labrador Club of Scotland recommend that if clubs do not return a vote for Judges Application(s) to the Breed Council's Judging List(s) that this be recorded as a NO vote.

We also request that Mrs Lisa Weiss who judged Dogs at the Labrador Club of Scotland's 2010 Championship Show is included in the table of judges who awarded C.C's for the first time in 2010 be considered for inclusion on the A1 list. (Item 11 of the General Meeting Agenda (I'm sure this should read judges who awarded C.C's for the first time in 2010 not 2009)).

We would also advise the Breed Council that we have requested a change the date for our Championship Show in 2012 to 19 May 2012 (The Kennel Club have approved this change of date and we will be applying for our Licence in due course). This is the day after Gundogs at The Scottish Kennel Club May Championship Show.

In addition to the above it is requested that the Breed Council considers setting the date for the 2012 AGM/General Meeting either week commencing Sunday 1st April 2012 or week commencing Sunday 15th April 2012.

Item 1. This issue will automatically be resolved with all A list judges being voted on at AGM where all clubs should have reps. Item 2 was not thought a good idea by those present. Mrs Lisa Weiss was added to the judges to be voted on for A3 list. The floor was informed of The Labrador Club of Scotland's change of date for their 2012 Championship show. The Chairman asked the reps from LRC of Scotland what the reason for a proposed change of date for LBC meeting was. The clash of The Potomac show date in USA was the reason. The vast majority of the Club representatives present decided this was not a strong enough reason to change our usual date and it was decided to keep it to our normal date.

Date and venue of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 12th April 2011 at The Kennel Club. AGM to start at 1.30 prompt.

Meeting closed at 3.35pm