

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE LABRADOR BREED COUNCIL HELD IN THE
BOARDROOM OF THE KENNEL CLUB AFTER THE AGM ON 11th APRIL 2016**

1. To approve Minutes of the General Meeting of the Labrador Retriever Council held on 9th April 2015

The minutes of the general meeting were circulated. The minutes were proposed by Northumberland & Durham Labrador Retriever Club and seconded by The Labrador Retriever Club.

The minutes were then formally approved with the chairman signing a copy.

2. Matters Arising.

Midland Counties Labrador Retriever Club requested an update from the last meeting about the request for the Breed standard to be amended to include Bolo Pads and the slight wave of coat. Alison Scutcher advised that she was aware the wording had been provided but she was unaware if the letter had been sent to the KC.

ACTION POINT: BC secretary to clarify if letter has been sent.

3. Breed Liaison Council Representative Report

A report had been provided by Mrs Shelagh Walton and was read out to the floor by Alison Scutcher, copy inserted below.

I am very sorry not to be present at this meeting. Unfortunately, I was not informed of the date until last week when it was too late for my arrangements to be changed.

My term as your Representative and as a Delegate at the KCBLC meetings finished at the end of last year. I should like to thank you all for nominating me as your Representative for the next three years and inform you that I have been elected as a Delegate which means I shall be able to attend the KCBLC meetings and fully represent our breed.

Please note that the proposal from The Yellow Labrador Club 'that any changes to the F and J regulations are highlighted in either italic or bold text for the first year of inclusion in the Kennel Club Year Book' which was discussed and supported by the KCBLC in 2014 has now been acted upon and the 2016 pocket sized regulations have been updated to include a page at the back which lists the amended regulations.

There were two meetings held last year and several issues were highlighted. Two proposals as follows were discussed. These were:-

From The Kent, Surrey and Sussex LRC

'That prior to the Kennel Club accepting the evaluation given on a first CC appointment they receive or obtain a copy of the judge's critique to form part of the evaluation process'

From the British Dalmatian Club

‘Where an Evaluator completes Form JD28 the relevant society shall be obliged to provide the requested items.’

(Form JD28 allows the evaluator to request nominating societies to provide an entry pass, car parking, catalogue and refreshments on a free of charge basis)

Both these proposals were unanimously supported to go forward for further consideration. The outcome of these will be available at the May meeting.

Concern has been raised over the criteria used when approving FCI Judges to award CCs. It was felt that there should be no inequality between the standards applied to overseas judges and to UK judges. Mr Luxmoore and Dr James attended the November meeting to reassure the KCBLC that the KC was equally concerned to ensure that all judges awarding CCs in the UK were competent to do so. An agreement reached with the FCI which came into effect in January 2016 and applies to shows taking place in 2017 and beyond is part of the process for reciprocity and would not give ‘carte blanche’ to any FCI judge to award CCs. On behalf of the KC Mr Luxmoore added that the agreement has been drafted with great care and that it allowed for much tighter controls on the approval process for overseas judges than had previously been the case. However, it was emphasised that the onus is on nominating societies to ensure that all judges invited from overseas are suitably qualified to fulfil their appointments. It was acknowledged that it was not possible to ensure that overseas judges applied the UK breed standard when judging in the UK, but in the case of serious concern regarding the performance of a judge a complaint may be made to the Kennel Club, via a breed club or breed council.

Breed Club Judges Lists were discussed and it was felt that in order to assist clubs and societies wishing to appoint judges there was a need for a standardised format for judging lists, possibly in the form of a template provided by the Kennel Club. This matter has been referred to the Judges Sub Committee for consideration as to a preferred format and template. The Council will then reconsider this further.

The next meeting of the KCBLC will be on 25th May and if any club has comments to make on the item regarding the approval of FCI judges please let me know as this item has been scheduled for further discussion.

Two proposals are to be discussed. They are:-

The Norfolk Terrier Club of Great Britain

‘That it be required that all judges being approved to award CCs for the first time in a breed must submit proof of critiques written on the breed in addition to their judged numbers.’

The British Gordon Setter Club

‘That 1st time Challenge Certificate Judges should not be approved for any subsequent CC appointments until their first appointment has been fulfilled’

If you have any comments on these that you wish me to put forward please let me know.

The deadline for proposals or items for discussion at the 23rd November meeting is 13th September 2016. Please let me have any items by then.

I can only apologise for not being present and suggest that if you have any questions regarding my report you contact me and I will try and answer them.

Shelagh Walton KCBLC Breed Representative

Midland Counties Labrador Club said they would like to offer support to the proposals made by the Dalmation and Gordon Setter Clubs.

A discussion took place regarding assessing of candidates with a great deal of criticism made of the form required to be completed by assessors.

East Anglian Labrador Retriever Club proposed that judges should be assessed at open shows and not at their first CC appointment. The floor agreed with this. Alison Scutcher advised that this process already exists with the Kennel Club. It is common place for Golden Retriever judges to use the A2 route whereby three assessments are carried out. As a breed, Labradors had traditionally used the A3 route.

Alison Scutcher confirmed that she will obtain and issue to all of the clubs the A2 criteria and documentation. A question was asked about the difficulties of the A2 route. Alison Scutcher advised that the difficulties remain, for both A2 & first time CC assessments, to obtain assessors. If the A2 route is used then it is down to the Breed Club Secretary to organise assessors.

ACTION POINT: Alison Scutcher to circulate A2 information to clubs

4. Breed Council KC Representatives & Health Sub Committee Report

Joy Venturi-Rose presented the report of behalf of the sub-committee. She confirmed that the minutes would be circulated and the report sent to the Breed Council Secretary to be included in the minutes.

She reported that the committee has elected Joy Venturi-Rose as the Chairman.

The BCHSC recommend that the results for HNPk are published in line with other DNA test results. This recommendation was agreed by the Breed Council.

Discussion then took place regarding the opportunity to obtain a place of the Genome mapping of 50 breeds. The BCHSC recommend that we, as a breed, express an interest in one of the places. There is matching in place. £2000 is required for the mapping but if the Breed Council provided £1000, the KC/AHT will match the amount. The cost to each club would be £77 each.

The BCHSC were asked what the disadvantages were to joining such a scheme. It was said that there are not any significant disadvantages.

The Labrador Retriever Club proposed we take part, this was seconded by Midland Counties LRC and all voted in favour.

ACTION POINT: BCHSC to express interest on the breed's behalf

ACTION POINT: BC Secretary to be responsible for collected club funds when necessary.

BCHSC advised that they are sometimes required to attend meetings and that historically funding was provided from Breed Council. Were Breed Council happy for this to continue?

LRC Northern Ireland proposed and it was seconded by LRC of Scotland. All voted in favour for this to continue.

BCHSC are also liaising with BVA/KC regarding the Median/Mean usage for Hip Dysplasia. Thanks was given to Northumberland & Durham for initiating this.

BCHSC also following up on the incorrect reporting of DNA results. There is currently no protocol in place for this and an example was given of a Clear test result that turned out to be incorrect. This is currently being followed up.

BCHSC place research requests on the website. Currently samples being sought for research into Mast cell Tumours and Hereditary cataracts.

BCHSC to start a "closed" Facebook group to enable the distribution of links and information. This will not include the facility for posting comments.

BCHSC have reviewed the Breed Health Survey which shows most Labradors die of old age followed by cancer. Consideration is being given in resurrecting the Breed Councils previous Health Survey.

Other topics currently on BCHSC agenda is Ectopic Urethters and Cruciate Ligaments.

Thanks was given from the council to the BCHSC for their work.

The Yellow Labrador Club asked who has taken the place of Marion Hopkinson as the KC Health Rep. Joy Venturi-Rose confirmed that the Breed Council had conducted a ballot and the reps were Joy Venturi-Rose and Lynda Heron.

Minutes of the Health Sub Committee

Held on the 11th April 2016 at The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB

Present

Joy Venturi Rose – Chairperson (Breed Health Rep)

Lynda Heron - Breed Health Rep (Present for item 4 onwards)

David Coode

Caron Morton

Janet Cole

Fiona Braddon

Apologies

Received from Karl Gawthorpe and Penny Carpanini

(Minute Taker - Joanne McDonald)

The Minutes of the General Meeting of The Labrador Breed Council Health Sub Committee held after the Annual General Meeting on 9th April 2015 were Proposed as a true record by Janet Cole, Seconded by Fiona Braddon.

Matters Arising

1. **HNPCK** – There was a majority of clubs in favour of recording HNPCK results, there followed a discussion on the interpretation of ‘in the customary manner. Two options were put forward
 - a) Automatically sent to the KC (as with similar results), if abroad the onus is on the tester.
 - b) Voluntary forwarded
 The first option was chosen as the preferred option
2. **Labrador Diversity Study** – This found that although the Labrador is numerically large as a breed, it has many sub divisions (show/working/pet) plus concentrated strands in certain geographical areas with lots of puppies resulting from a small number of sires. The indicative populations is therefore 80 (100+ being the more desirable figure). If we stay within these sub-groups we are promoting in-breeding, therefore the ‘out’ crossing from the sub-groups should be actively encouraged. Some rare (and numerically small) dog breeds are reporting better results than the Labrador, resulting in their indicative number being 100 and higher.
3. **Mast Cell Tumours** – The Animal Health Trust are imdertaking a study that will eventually enable the identification of marker genes for mast cell tumours in Labradors. This is likely in the next 5 years. The test would be able to identify low to high risk of developing mast cell tumours in Labradors. It would be important not to discard dogs from the gene pool but to breed any higher risk dogs to lower risk dogs. As with all cancers just because dogs can be at risk of developing cancer does not mean they will develop it. Samples are requested by the AHT and details will be put on the Breed Health Council web site.
4. KC Breed Survey the main cause of death has been found to be that most Labradors die of old age, followed by cancer (non-specific)
5. **HC - 4.4** AHT are calling for blood samples also for H/C from both affected no older than 3 years of age and clears aged 8+. It has been acknowledged that it is probably multifactorial. FB suggested the removal of the ‘Fail’ on Eye Certificates. It was noted that the Golden Retrievers had already done so. JVR suggested that the condition does not compromise the dogs sight. A discussion took place on how much it affects the dog’s welfare. JVR proposed that as Sheila Crispin is looking at the eye testing scheme the committee would write stating that as this has minimum impact (Until a DNA test can be developed), what is the BVA view on the removal of the word ‘Fail’ on a certificate but that the it would be recorded in the notes. FB stated that it had also been taken off in Scandinavia. **LH & JVR to action**
6. **Breed Specific Genome** – The Kennel Club are giving the AHT some funding into this project initially for 50 breeds. The K9 Genome is known but not the breed specific one, each breed who wished to take part must match the funding of the KC, £1000 per breed from the KC, £1000 from the breed. JVR had received an email from Mr Hardy to ask if we as a breed are taking part. JC asked regarding the benefits of doing this, JVR explained it will hopefully provide an entire map of all genes, a set of markers for our breed. This would cost each club £77, the representative for the clubs felt their clubs would be in favour and it was decided to take this proposal forward to the Breed Council Meeting. **JVR to action.**
7. (*) **Erroneous Results in DNA tests** – LH explained that a bitch had tested clear for CNM in the UK (AHT) was mated to a clear dog in the UK. A puppy was sold to Germany where it was tested and given a carrier certificate. AHT did not test again but looked at the result and found that there had been a recording error for the bitch that should have been given a carrier certificate. LH had contacted Gary Johnson (KC) to ask what the protocol was in this situation, which was to change the recorded result of the bitch. AHT appear not to have a protocol, LH explained this would cause a problem as the resulting progeny and generations will be affected by the result too, these are still showing as ‘Clear by Parentage’ on MyKC. JVR started that most labs will work under the ISO Quality Standard and suggested these be looked at to see if there was a stated protocol which could or should be used in such cases. **FB to obtain a copy** of ISO relevant to this. FB suggested that we should have a three

generations limit on hereditary clear certification. LH proposed a letter sent to the KC to have a protocol in place that should a result be changed, the progeny and descendants be informed automatically as they have a responsibility to do so. FB pointed out this undermines the confidence in testing. **JVR also to look at UCAS, LH to liaise with JVR and FB to produce letter.**

8. **Proximal Dyskensia** – LH was asked to bring this up. It is an umbrella disease and may be linked to CECS, canine episodic cramping syndrome in other breeds and expresses as sudden cramping (prevalent in Border Terriers). Researcher has asked for any video material or reports of episodes from owners. JVR suggested putting link on the website. **FB to action**
9. **Health Fund** – LH explained some breeds have a pot of money to cover travel expenses incurred by Health Reps when attending significant talks or seminars relevant to the breed. JVR surmised that BC may have funds in place to cover this and would bring it up at BC Meeting. **JVR to action.**
10. **Ectopic Ureter** – (Wet Puppies) JVR explained that in Switzerland they had a scheme for Swiss Mountain Dogs to image the angle of the ureter to ascertain if it was more susceptible, this is not currently available in the UK. A dialog has been set up between Amy Llewellyn, BVA and the Swiss Mountain Dog and Golden Retriever health representatives to look at possible scheme. **LH to send email to establish progress.** FB queried inheritance program, LH agreed. JVR suggested it may be multifactorial; a graded system in place would be able help match low to high risk. FB suggested that it may also not be sex linked (although more predominant in females) and she would like to see a volunteer reporting scheme set up (many pups die or are PTS within the first few weeks). LH suggested posting on the website, JVR queried who this would be reported to. **LH to look at Survey Monkey or equivalent and compile a list of questions.**
11. **Pedigree Surveys and Breed Health.** JVR stated it had already been covered in previous points, LH bought up Health Survey compiled for the breed a couple of years ago, superseded by the KC one. JVR asked if there were any differences in the questions asked, LH responded that the KLC was a one off survey, the breed survey was intended to be ongoing. **LH to contact KC to ask if they would still be willing to circulate the Breed Council Survey should they wish to introduce it.**
12. **Cruciate disease** – FB reported that this is an increasing problem; LH suggested an area on the website to post suggestions for research / students. JVR asked if any other breeds had a monitoring scheme or anything to address the problem. None known. LH queried vets not reporting the problem, leading to unnecessary operations, Malcolm Ness (Joint Specialist Vet) had commented that breeders enforcing rules of not exercising puppies appropriately and overweight youngsters would contribute to these problems. Appropriate exercise is necessary to strengthen ligaments and tendons etc. JVR suggested a literature search so that the committee had more information.
13. **Hip Scoring Mean/ Median.** The KC recommendation of using the median score of 9 (currently) down from 12. FB queried where the figure used came from. LH read out correspondence on behalf of N&D Committee to Dr Dennis with regard to this. **LH expecting letter from Dr Dennis after her return from lecturing in Europe**, not before W/C 18th. It was suggested that the advice from Dr Dennis only to use 9 and below would be difficult for breeders to implement alongside all the other health testing that was necessary and perhaps unnecessary because as acknowledged in Dr Dennis's paper some scores higher than 9 did not cause any mobility problems. Shrinkage of the gene pool needed to be considered and CM noted if the advice were followed this would also significantly reduce the gene pool as currently only 3.57% of litters would comply with the guidance.
14. **Website** – **FB to update**, JVR suggested setting up a Facebook Group as an information page only. **LH to action.**

15. **Macural Cornea Dystrophy** – JVR contacted the researchers and the KC regarding the development of the test and enquiring why the health committee had not been informed. The DNA test is now available however the condition is a painless one mainly occurring in old age.
16. LH explained a situation to the meeting that had arisen regarding failures on the KC/BVA certificate. It appears that in the event of two tests listing a fail that even if the Chief Panelist believes the test to be incorrect it cannot be changed! JVR suggested that we should ask the BVA for their written policy on this. LH
- No further business.

Next meeting was set for Thursday 6th April 2017.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Kent Surrre & Sussex LRC wish to propose:

A amend the Breed Standard to: Wholly black, yellow or liver/chocolate **only**. Yellows range from light cream to fox red. Small white spot on chest permissible. The Committee felt there was some merit in considering amending the breed standard due to the frequent discussion regarding unrecognised colours.

The reason for the proposal is the following Scenario: At the URC Open Show February 2015 there was much discussion regarding a yellow Flatcoated Retriever which was exhibited and is an unrecognised colour. The Kennel Club's advice on the day was that despite it being an unrecognised colour, it was registered with the Kennel Club therefore can be shown and it is expected that judges judge according to the breed standard.

The Flatcoated Retriever Standard says Black or Liver Only and the German Shepherd Standard refers to white as highly undesirable.

Joy Venturi-Rose spoke on the proposal. Votes were cast

For: 12 (Carried)

Against: 1

ACTION POINT: BC Secretary to write to KC requesting change

7. Labrador Club of Wales wish to Propose:

A change to the wording of the Breed Standard: The proposed change is in red. Forequarters Shoulders **well laid back long in blade with upper arm of equal length placing legs well under body**. Forelegs well boned and straight when viewed from either front or side.

Reasoning behind proposed change:

1. The current Breed Standard does not mention the upper arm yet judges critique regularly refer to shortness of upper arm.
2. The Labrador is a working dog and length of stride is important for economy of movement.
3. Reference is often made to poor front movement in the breed which is generally attributable to poor front construction.

4 The proposed change clearly defines what is required.

David Coode spoke on the proposal. Votes were cast

For: 6

Against: 6

Abstention: 1

Consensus in the room was in favour of the principal behind the proposal but the implications needed to be considered further. It was agreed the proposal would return to LRC Wales for them to reconsider and submit revised wording.

Views on this to be email to the BC Secretary and copied to BC Chairman.

8. Midland Counties LRC wish to Propose:

Any judge who puts up/places an unrecognised colour, be removed from the Breed Council's judges list.

Julia Lewis spoke on the proposal. Votes were cast:

For: 2

Against: 11

It was felt that the KSS proposal carried earlier in the meeting addressed this anyway. Concerns were also expressed about excluding judges from lists when the list was not exhaustive. The point was made that it would be more prudent to exclude a judge for placing lame dogs.

9. Judges who awarded Challenge Certificates for the first time in 2013 to be considered for inclusion on the A1 lists, these to be voted on:

Breed Specialist's

A paper ballot was carried out for each judge, with one vote per club. The votes cast were:

Mr Paul Collins	For: 8	Against: 4	Abstention: 1
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Miss A Farquharson	For: 6	Against: 4	Abstention: 3
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Mrs Mandy Deane	For: 9	Against: 1	Abstention: 3
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Miss Rebecca Hodge	For: 10	Against: 2	Abstention: 1
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There was a discussion on the use of abstentions. It was understood that it had previously been agreed that abstentions were treated as a no vote. This was deemed incorrect and it was agreed that further clarification would be required on this issue.

10. Roll of Honour List

The criteria for the list is the following, Senior Championship Show judges who have made a significant contribution to the Labrador breed, and who are now considered generally non-active in Championship Show Judging. The Person should still be living to be included on the list. (It's also pointed out that if a club puts forward a name then that club must be absolutely sure that the judge is in permanent retirement, retirement means judging and also acting as referee) It is felt that the best place for the Roll of Honour List to be published was in Club Year Books.

Roll of Honour List to date:-

Mrs E Greenhalgh
Mrs D Johnson
Mr T Pascoe
Mrs P Woolf
Mr P Woolf
Mrs M Young

It was requested that Eric Gill is removed from the list as he has sadly passed away during the year

The Hon Secretary removed Mr E Gill from the list, there being no other nominations.

11. Any Other Business by the discretion of the Chair

There was an issue raised regarding the updating of judging lists as some details were incorrect. Fiona Braddon advised the lists have been updated. She carries out these updated when information supplied by the BC Secretary.

Alison Scutcher suggested that the accuracy of the lists should be the responsibility of all of the breed club secretary. She suggested that each review and if they can highlight any changes, to email the BC Secretary of any deceased or retired members.

David Coode advised that he had brought the matter of judging lists up at a meeting he had attended and cited the fact that general championship shows complain about falling entries but then ignore breed council approved lists. The Breed council thanks David Coode for raising this.

The floor gave a vote of thanks to the new chair, Sheelin Cuthbert, the Acting Secretary Alison Scutcher and the outgoing chairman, Richard Stafford.

12. Date and Venue of next meeting:

Proposed date for the next meeting was Thursday 6th April 2017 at The Kennel Club

ACTION POINT: BC Secretary to book

Meeting was formally closed at 15:50pm