

MINUTES OF THE LABRADOR BREED COUNCIL MEETING AT THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET, PICCADILLY, LONDON ON TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2019

PRESENT

Present Chair	Mrs Sheelin Cuthbert
New Chair	Mrs Sussie Wiles
Sec/Treasurer	Mr Karl Gawthorpe
Minute taker	Mrs Chris Kempson

Mrs Erica Jayes and Mrs Carolyn Jenkins	Cotswold & Wyvern LRC
Mrs Janet Cole and Mr Ian Ganney	East Anglian LRC
Mrs Agnes May Pollock and Mr Robin Pollock	Labrador Club of Scotland
Miss Tracey Douglas and Mr Alex Douglas	Labrador Club of N. Ireland
Mrs Lynda Heron and Mrs Fiona Maclean	Northumberland and Durham
Mrs Ginette Oulton and Mr Ian Jones	North West LRC
Ms Anne Johnson and Mr Ian Dawson	Three Ridings LRC
Mrs Julia Lewis and Mrs Elaine Grummitt	Midland Counties LRC
Ms Maxine Woodley and Mr David Coode	Labrador Retriever Club
Mrs Fiona Braddon and Mrs Kate Smith	Yellow Labrador Club
Mrs Barbara Gentleman and Mrs Pam Blay	KSS LRC
Mrs Margaret Barker and Miss Kirsty Jones	Labrador Club of Wales
Mr Gordon Fox and Mr Chris Mills	West of England LRC

A number of friends have died:

Tony Pascoe
Mary Barranger
James Hindley
Vic Cole

1. Apologies for absence: None
2. Approval of Minutes dated 12 April 2018 was proposed by Alex Douglas and seconded by Ian Dawson
3. Matters Arising
 - a) The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, thanked Carole Coode on spending a very long time on preparing the paperwork for the Breed Appreciation Seminars
 - b) Had Health Committee discussed assurance scheme for breeders. It was confirmed that it would be in the Health Report.

4. Statement of Accounts:

Midland Counties representative asked why the last year's travel and accommodation expenses for Discover Dogs had increased. Karl explained it was for 4 days at Crufts with 2 days at ExCel London and people came from far and wide to spend a day.

The Chairman commented that we should write and thank the people who brought their caravans etc to save money.

Alex Douglas proposed passing the accounts
Ian Douglas seconded.

5. To Ratify Chairman:

Sheelin said she would like to thank many people, in particular, Carole Coode and Penny Carpanini and everyone who has helped and supported her in the past.

The departing Chairman then handed over the chairmanship to Mrs Sussie Wiles.

Sussie Wiles, after thanking the departing Chairman then asked that she be copied in on all correspondence together with Karl.

6. Ratify the Treasurer/Secretary. Karl to remain.

7. Secretary's Expenses for Administration: It was proposed by Linda Heron they stay the same and seconded by Margaret Barker.

8. To agree on subscriptions for 2019: It was agreed that subscriptions should stay the same this year but will look at it again next year. A cheque for £325 made out to the LBC was requested from each club.

9. Appointment of Auditors: Treasurer reported he had no issues with Mr David Alsion-Beer. It was proposed to retain the present auditors by Robin Pollock and seconded by David Coode.

10. Report from The Kennel Club Breed Liaison Council Representative: Mrs Shelagh Walton sent her apologies for her non- attendance as she was in New Zealand. However, her report is attached herewith. If anything arises for the report Karl will let Shelagh and Sussie know.

Good day everyone.

As I am on holiday in New Zealand I apologise for not attending this meeting.

I should like to thank you for putting me forward as the Breed Representative for the next three-year term. I consider it a great honour. The other Gundog Breed Representatives have elected me as a Delegate which means that I will again be attending the meetings and will be able to speak on any proposals that the breed wishes to put forward to the Breed Liaison Council.

Unfortunately, as there was insufficient content for the May 2018 meeting it was cancelled so there was only one meeting held last year in November.

At this meeting, feedback was received about the Reciprocal agreement with FCI in respect of Judges which was signed in March 2017. At the May 2017 meeting concern had been raised that, despite the new agreement, difficulties remained in checking the qualifications of overseas judges. A further concern was raised in that, under the terms of the new agreement, the onus was on nominating societies to exercise due diligence in ensuring that only suitably qualified judges were appointed, but that this may prove problematic if sufficient information could not be obtained in respect of a judge's experience. It had been agreed by the Council that no further action should be taken at the time but that the impact of the new agreement should be assessed over the course of the coming twelve months.

Additionally, Council representatives were reminded that any examples of unacceptable judging involving overseas judges should be submitted to the office so that any such instances may be used as a basis for requesting that specific aspects of the agreement be re-examined, if necessary.

Aspects of the Judges Competency Framework were discussed and it was acknowledged that there was still some confusion in the dog showing community regarding the way in which the JCF should operate but feedback from those who had taken part in making arrangements such as organising breed appreciation days and providing mentoring services within their own breeds was generally very positive.

It was accepted that some issues would arise during the transition period but it was anticipated that these would be addressed via ongoing consultation with those involved. The Council expressed its willingness to take part in the process and would be happy to assist the office in any way. It was confirmed that feedback from all parties would be taken into account in making any necessary revisions to the JCF as it continued to develop.

A proposal from the Australian Cattle Dog Society of Great Britain as follows was discussed:-

'The Society would like to propose that the KC Registration Documents be altered to allow space for the Kennel Club/British Veterinary Association Eye Panelists to stamp when they do annual eye certification.'

The Council noted that at present there was no specific space available on the registration certificate for the stamp, especially in the case of older dogs that may have had a number of eye tests. In some cases the stamp was illegible.

The Council agreed that the proposal was a sensible one, and following a vote, unanimously recommended it for approval,

The Southern Newfoundland Club put forward another proposal regarding the registration documents as below:-

'At the Southern Newfoundland Club's Committee meeting held in January 2018 it was unanimously agreed that the Club write to the Kennel Club to formally recommend that it consider that the spaces next to 'Health Screening – Kennel Club British Veterinary Association Schemes' and 'DNA Tests' on the registration information document should never be left blank. The Club proposes instead to add the wording 'None Recorded', or similar if there was no test result to show. '

This recommendation was prompted by feedback and queries from puppy buyers which had led to the realisation that blank space next to these headings could mislead them into mistakenly believing

that health tests had been carried out. It was felt that absolute clarity was necessary in order to remove the possibility of ambiguity or confusion.

The Council was in agreement with the proposal but suggested that the terms 'none published' (for example where a test had been carried out by a laboratory not recognised by the Kennel Club) or, where appropriate, 'not applicable' may also be provided as options. It was agreed that the specific terminology may be defined by the Kennel Club's health department. Subject to the above, a vote took place and the Council unanimously recommended the proposal for approval.

Both these proposals will go forward to the appropriate Committee and we should hear the results of these recommendations in due course.

Promotion of the Breed Liaison Council was brought up under Any Other Business. It was felt that the wider dog community were unaware that proposals and discussion items could be submitted by both clubs and individuals. It was felt that this could be made clearer on the Kennel Club website. The Council considered that every effort should be made to promote the engagement of the dog showing community with the Council in order to maximise its efficacy.

I should like to thank the Northumberland and Durham Lab Club for forwarding names of judges who are either no longer with us or have retired. I have forwarded these to the Kennel Club and hope that they will amend their records accordingly.

The next KCLC Breeds Council meeting will be held on 22 May 2019 which I shall be attending. It is to be hoped that there will be sufficient content for the Agenda and that this meeting will go ahead.

Any queries on the above please drop me an email and I will try to clarify.

Shelagh Walton

11. Report from Health Sub-Committee.

A full report will follow as Joy Venturi Rose was unable to attend this meeting.

Sheelin and The Chairman attended. A copy of the report will be forwarded to members. The Chairman reported that a vote was needed at this meeting on the proposal from the Health Committee the Kennel Club be asked to add to the requirements of the ABS that one parent should be clear or hereditary clear of PRCDI (GPRA).

It was proposed acceptance by Kate Smith and seconded by Elaine Grummitt.
The motion was carried.

Karl would write to the Assured Breeder Scheme to get this added to requirement.

Labrador Breed Health Sub-committee (LBHSC) Meeting Draft Minutes 15th April 2019

Those present: Joy Venturi Rose (chairman and Breed Health Co-ordinator) Lynda Heron (Breed Health Co-ordinator) Elaine Grummitt Fiona Braddon Kira Leith-Ross Kirsty Jones Kate Smith Fiona McClean Sheelin Cuthbert (Breed Council Chairman) Sussie Wiles (Breed Council Chairman Elect) Karl Gawthorpe (Breed Council Secretary)

There were no apologies or absentees

JVR welcomed the members and all gave a short resume of their background and interests.

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed with one spelling correction.

It was clarified that members of the LBHSC who were not also on the Breed Council (BC) would have their travel expenses paid by the BC. Please complete the expenses sheet to be given to KG

Matters Arising: Give a Dog a Genome JVR reported that not all clubs had positively answered that they would contribute the extra money for an early start to this project. We were now due to start in 2019. **JVR had not heard anything from the project organisers so it was agreed that she would make contact to see when we would be starting.** There had been no feedback from clubs on the conditions to be investigated so we would go forward with the suggested Elbow Dysplasia Hereditary Cataract and Cruciate ligament as indicated previously via the Kennel Club Breed Health Report. FB asked why skin issues were not included. However (apart from ear problems (which can sometimes be skin related) this was not something that had been particularly highlighted via other health surveys or the breed clubs and we were only allowed to request three conditions via the Give a Dog a Genome project.

GPRA control letter. JVR reported that she had spent basically the whole year developing the research material and application to agree that Elbow Dysplasia scoring should be a requirement of the Assured Breeders Scheme (ABS) and felt that it was not a good idea to be pushing the Kennel Club regarding two different projects at the same time. GPRA will feature as this year's project.

Elbow Dysplasia (EB) Scoring As part of the research it was discovered that of progeny scoring the worst i.e scores of 2 or 3 sixty three percent (63%) of these dogs registered under the ABS scheme came from litters where either no parents were scored for ED or only one parent was scored. Accordingly the BHSCs proposal has been accepted by the Kennel Club (KC) ABS group and health sub-committee and has been ratified by the KC Board

The following change to the Health Sub Committee terms of reference (copy attached) to enable less changes of representatives all in one go. The following proposal and as suggested at the meeting with the amendment underlined was passed by the committee.

The Breed Club Health Sub Committee shall be made up of the two breed health coordinators who are elected every five years plus six other elected breed Club representatives. One third of the breed club representatives (consisting of the longest serving members) will retire bi-annually but will be eligible for re-election. The remaining two thirds of the committee shall continue in office for the following year. In the event of a resignation of a representative of one or more of the breed clubs. All breed clubs will be asked to nominate names to fill the vacant space/s In the event of more nominations than spaces available being received the election will be by ballot of all the breed clubs.

As the above was adopted a ballot was held that determined the following length of service:

Elaine Grummitt 2 years

Fiona Braddon 2 years

Keira Leith Ross 3 years

Kirby Jones 3 years

Kate Smith 4 years

Fiona McClean 4 years

Representation of Breed Clubs

Kirsty Jones Cotswold and Wyevern and Labrador Retriever Club of Wales

Kate Smith East Anglian LRC and The Labrador Club

Joy Venturi Rose Kent Surrey and Sussex LRC
Fiona Maclean Labrador Club of Northern Ireland and North West LRC
Kira Leith-Ross Labrador Club of Scotland and Three Ridings LRC
Elaine Grummitt Midland Counties LRC
Lynda Heron Northumberland and Durham LRC
Fiona Braddon West of England LRC and Yellow Labrador Club

Attached is the current list of Laboratories that the KC will record DNA test results from and whether this will be done automatically or upon owner submission of the certificate. Certificates must include at least two methods of the dogs identification. **The chart** which may be amended from time to time can be found at <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health/for-breeders/dna-testing-simple-inherited-disorders/worldwide-dna-tests/> JVR also advised the meeting that Dr Tom Lewis was giving any new laboratories for new DNA testing a rigorous interview (email from G Johnson) before they would be accepted as laboratories who's certificates can be recorded by the KC. Currently, all laboratories undertaking GPRA DNA testing on the list are acceptable for recording as the KC now took the view that any potential patent issues were between the laboratories themselves. In the future there should be the additional quality assurance mechanism through the XXXX scheme. It was important that if members identified any anomalous results or suspected quality issues that they produce evidence and take this to the KC and to this committee preferably. Currently, it appears that Petagenic has been missed from the list.

Quality Assurance scheme It was noted with disquiet that even though there had been no club opinions past back to this committee by the breed clubs on the scheme proposed by the Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever Club last year that because of a few "complaints" by individuals when the scheme went "live" The scheme had been held back from being endorsed as a Breed Council motion being passed. Whilst this went against the procedure, outlined in the BC minutes, of hearing comments and opinions for consideration from breed clubs before the July closing date and then if there were no adverse comments the scheme would go live. On balance, the committee now felt that it would be better to give clubs and individuals more information on the implementation of this voluntary scheme and also to make clear the recommendations were mainly for the general public and also with the awareness that as health testing is a developing situation not all litters would achieve the platinum target and that this did not necessarily indicate that the breeder was not health conscious. **Kate Smith (KS) agreed to take forward the writing of more information to support the scheme.** It was noted by the committee that there was nothing to stop individuals or breed clubs adopting the scheme in any case.

It was proposed and passed by the committee that: **The Kennel Club be asked to add to the requirements of the ABS that: One parent should be clear or hereditary clear of PRCD1 (GPRA) JVR to take this forward** although she advised that it might be more difficult to generate the required research information as it seems that often dogs diagnosed with GPRA might not actually have been seen by a KC/BVA eye panellist but either their own veterinary surgeon or an eye specialist not on the panel. **Lynda Heron (LH) has some information that she will pass to JVR to help support the application.**

Proposal that: The breed health sub-committee take a proactive role in building relationships with online puppy selling sites to highlight health testing requirements of the breed? Perhaps an area one of the new members may wish to develop? After discussion and some examples it was felt that most of the main web sites that sold puppies did not have sections to record the health testing status of the parents. However, the KC puppy register did not. The view of the committee was that this could be easily accommodated and that as the KC were revamping their IT systems that now was the time to write a letter suggesting this. **JVR to take forward.**

It was agreed that committee members would lead on the following areas:

Joy Venturi Rose GPRA

Lynda Heron relationship and liaison with BVA

Elaine Grummet Colour registrations and the dilute gene. A precedent has been set that the KC will not register Blue Merle whippets.

Fiona Braddon Ectopic Ureta

Kirsty Jones Hip Dysplasia and specific markers of inheritance

Kate Smith NDLC Quality Assurance Scheme

Fiona McClean Heart Issues

Kira Leith-Ross Cruciate Ligament

Any Other Business

Lynda Heron will pass access to Kirsty Jones to carry out some more analysis of the Breed Health Committee health survey

It was agreed that JVR would write a letter to Noel Fitzpatrick asking him to promote the benefits of the KC/BVA Hip and Elbow scoring scheme to the general public and clients.

Date of next meeting

It was decided that the committee would like 2 meetings a year. **Sussie Wiles would arrange a room after the Yellow Labrador Club championship show on the 25th September 2019**

12. Three Ridings Labrador Club proposal: The proposal that a committee member only serves on one breed Club was not carried due to the fact that most people feel it is a question of integrity and also against the LBC constitution.
13. The Labrador Retriever Club proposed the Roll of Honour list should include field trial judges. The criteria being that they must be retired from judging. The motion was carried.
14. The Labrador Retriever Club proposed lowering the requirement for 2 Breed Club Open Show judging appointments to be put forward for the A3 list to 1 Breed Club Open Show

Voting: For 8 Against 5. The proposal was carried. The Secretary would action.

15. Voting slips for first time CC judges in 2018 to be included in the A1 list were as follows:

MissM Brown	13yes		
Mrs Manning	7 yes	3 No	3 abstain
Mr J L Blais	10 yes	1 No	2 abstain
Mrs H Gilroy	5 yes	4 No	2 abstain
Mr A Douglas	10 yes	1 No	2 abstain
Mrs N Dodd	11 yes	2 No	
Mrs J Dobson	9 yes	4 No	
Miss C Campbell	11 Yes		2 abstain
Mr B Lane	4 yes	6 No	3 abstain
Mrs K Gorman	7 yes	2 No	4 abstain
Mr C Woodward	7 yes	1 No	5 abstain

All except Mr Lane will join the A1 list.

16. Roll of Honour List: Additions

Jim Nolan
Elise Nolan
Marlene Hepper
David Hepper
Sandra Halsted
Derrick Caple– Field Trial (will be confirmed)

17. Any Other Business:

- (a) David Coode reported that someone joined a breed club, got Assured breeder status and then bred designer dogs. Can they be dismissed from the Breed club? It was thought not but we should be aware and each Committee needs to consider and tighten up their rules.
- (b) Discover Dogs booklet and papers need someone to take on the responsibility of doing it as John is finding it too time-consuming. The Chairman thanked John and asked the Committee to take this back to their clubs and proposed that perhaps others would be kind enough to take this on. The Chairman stressed how important Discover Dogs is.

2.42 meeting closed.

It was proposed the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 8 April 2020. Will be confirmed in September.