



www.ndlabclub.co.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Wednesday 15th April 2015 at Bowburn Community Centre

Those Present:

I. Davison, G. Atkinson, L. Thompson, J. Dickson, K. Jenkins, C. Mitchell, P. Amos, J. Smart, A.B. Schofield, L. Heron, A. Burke, A. Gorman, Wm. Lambell, I. Palmer, M. Gibson, J. McDonald, K. Leith-Ross, G.W. Dixon, S. Shankar, L. Hartis, S. McDermott.

- 1 Apologies received and accepted from: F. Maclean, P. Williams, Mr & Mrs Gardner, R. Williams, Mr & Mrs Wilson, Mr J. Dickson, S. Whyte, J. Christon, J. Cavana, F. Smith.
- 2 Minutes of previous AGM for approval and adoption.
Copies of draft minutes had been available on the website for some months.
(Proposed K Jenkins, seconded S. Shankar). **Minutes were approved and adopted unanimously.**
- 3 Matters arising from the Minutes
No matters were arising.
- 4 Chairperson's Address: Lynda Heron, Chair

"Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to Northumberland and Durham's Annual General Meeting. Thank you for attending.

It would though, for a Club with nearly 500 members, have been nice to have seen one or two more! The AGM is the members opportunity to feedback to the club their views and for the Officers, Secretaries and representatives to let you know how hard we have been working!

My personal and special thanks go to the two officers Jill and Irene. Jill who by doing such a fantastic job of the accounts means a huge weight and worry is off my shoulders and on to hers! I think she will agree that I am improving with my receipts but please everyone note you cannot expect to be reimbursed without the correct receipts and in view of past events in this club and recent events in other clubs I really must insist this is followed to the letter.

Irene added to her workload last year by taking on the Secretary role on top of Website Admin and doing all the Admin side for both the FT and Working Secretaries which I know makes their jobs so much easier. Irene has accomplished all these roles with amazing efficacy and commitment. It is the unseen work of annual returns and such like that again mean I can relax knowing the club is in good order. The FT, WT and Show Secs have done a great job in their individual roles and all events have run smoothly. They have been a credit to the Club's growing reputation. Additionally the club ran a Show Gundog Working Certificate event which was well received and my thanks go to Fiona for all her hard work on this event. All three committees have worked as cohesive units meaning the events have run very smoothly - thank you.

As is customary we also give thanks to sponsors and landowners without whom our club could not exist we are so lucky to have so many Trials because of our landowner's generosity.

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to say if you feel you have something to offer or any fresh ideas please let us know. Many of our members have put back into the club far more than their fair share. This is especially true of Neville. Neville has reached that age that one can start discussing birthdays again! This year he is 80 and has decided to call it a day as far as committees are concerned. Neville has given so much to the club and is already an Honorary Life Member and if he had been in attendance tonight I would have liked to present this in front of members, but will ensure he receives this small token of our appreciation of all he has done for the club.

At this point it is customary to look forward and mention plans for the future. This year's Special Event will be a Seminar on the 25th April at Croft Vet Hospital – we have Dr Lewis from the Kennel Club speaking about the progress the Kennel Club is making with EBV and COI. This will be followed by a talk from the breed's leading historian Richard Edwards.

Both these lectures will be of interest to anyone who breeds, owns or plans to own a Labrador. Tickets can be purchased tonight or online from the clubs website.”
(Lynda was thanked for her report).

5 Secretary's Report: Irene Davison, Hon. Secretary

See Appendix 1. (Irene was thanked for her report).

6 Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Annual Accounts: Jill Dickson, Hon. Treasurer.

See Appendix 2.

No issues or questions were raised regarding the 2014 accounts and acceptance was proposed by L. Thompson and seconded by I Davison – **Unanimously agreed.** (Jill was thanked for her report).

7a) Field Trial Secretary's Report: Lee Hartis, F.T. Secretary

See Appendix 3. (Lee was thanked for his report)

7b) Working Test Secretary's Report: Steven McDermott, W.T. Secretary

See Appendix 4. (Steve was thanked for his report)

8. Show Secretary's Report: Kay Jenkins, Show Secretary

See Appendix 5. (Kay was thanked for her report).

9 Club Representative Annual Reports for 2014

a) Breed Council – Lynda Heron - **See Appendix 6**

b) Breed Health – Lynda Heron - **See Appendix 7**

(Lynda was thanked for her reports)

c) Field Trial Liaison Representative's Report: emailed from Samantha Whyte

See Appendix 8.

The report was read out to members that Samantha had provided via email. (Sam has been thanked for her report which was well received by the meeting)

9d) Labrador Welfare Update: Su and June Roberts

See Appendix 9. (Su and June had been thanked for their report which was well received by the meeting)

10 Educational/Programme – Lynda Heron

Every year the club likes to provide an additional event for members, which alternates annually if possible between Show, Working and Labrador owners in general. The event previously mentioned in my Chairperson's report is the event organised for this year. A seminar at Croft Hospital, Cramlington has been organised where we will have two guest speakers Dr Tom Lewis (man behind the science of the Kennel Club's Mate Select programme) when he will be delivering a talk on Estimated Breeding Values and Coefficients of Inbreeding. It is hope this would appeal to people from across the range of working, show and Labrador owners in general.

The afternoon session will be a talk from Richard Edwards (a notable Labrador historian) on the History and Development of the Labrador. Tickets are available online from the website or direct to Lynda Heron.

11 Honoraria

The honoraria of all officers was reviewed and agreed by all AGM members present.

12 Election of Officers of the Club as listed (with consideration for others)

As per the agenda nominations had been received, proposed and accepted for all existing officers with the exception of the Vice Chair role (as explained earlier Neville Barlow would not be standing for re-election).

No further nominations had been received and members were asked to vote on the nominations as listed on the Agenda en bloc. **Unanimously agreed to re-elect officers as listed**

Members were invited to apply for the vacant Vice Chair position as a co-opt (due to the nomination deadline being passed). Steve McDermott agreed to fill the vacancy and this was welcomed, **voted on and agreed unanimously.**

13 Election of Committees, Breed Council, Breed Health and FT Representatives

Nominations had been received from previous co-opted committee members as follows:

Alexandra Burke (General)

Cheryl Mitchell (Show)

Kira Leith-Ross (re-election to Show committee)

Ian Palmer (FT)

Margaret Gibson (FT)

New nominations for committee

Jeff Smart (FT)

Natasha Bujnoch (General) – to be co-opted until next AGM.

Lynda Heron was re-elected as Breed Council and Breed Health representative with possible future interest being considered by Jo McDonald and Kira Leith-Ross. Samantha Whyte (FT Liaison Council Representative) is not due for re-election until the end of 2015. Fiona Maclean had advised that she unfortunately had to resign from the FT Sub-committee due to not being able to give sufficient time to the position. Fiona wished to remain a member of the General Committee. Fiona was thanked for her input to the FT committee.

All nominations had been correctly proposed and seconded and were voted on en bloc and **unanimously accepted.**

14 Election of Auditors

Members had been very happy with the work of Mr Glaholm but he had expressed the possibility he may not be in a position to continue with the role for 2015 accounts (as per the Treasurers' report). Members agreed to retain the services of Mr Glaholm and in the event of him not being able to continue; members were asked to advise the club of any known accountants who could possibly fill the role of Auditor.

15 Proposals by members received by 5th April 2015.

One proposal had been received within the timescale and was tabled. That Gary Barrett be offered monetary assistance for his attendance at our events as his photographs enhanced the club website and these may have assisted the club in attaining additional members and attendances at events.

Discussion ensued and although an admirable proposal; it was felt the club had a mutually beneficial relationship with Gary; who had been greatly assisted by the Club in the development of his business. The fact he was given preferential position at our events and by being given the showcase of our website and facebook page, we were providing an unpaid advertisement for his work. His images are also protected by his watermark and copyright and it was hoped the relationship could continue in a mutually beneficial way.

Gary is also mentioned on the website with a link to his company and a letter of thanks had been sent at the end of the 2014 season thanking him for his assistance, as well as being continually recommended by Club individuals verbally and on social media. A vote took place on whether a payment should be made. With only two votes in favour, the proposal was defeated.

16 Any other business

No additional items were tabled.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Minutes unanimously accepted as a true record at AGM 2016 (20th April 2016)

- Proposed J. Smart, Seconded A Beckley.

“My first year as Secretary has been a very busy one with additional duties on top of those I already had undertaken since first becoming involved with the Club administration in 2013. All KC requirements were fulfilled and in April 2014 our Annual Returns were completed fully and accepted by the Kennel Club Ltd. I further ensured our club details/contacts were visible and correct on KC and Breed Council websites as these were very out of date.

My main aim has been to build a central records system for the club, which can be accessed by all officers and where Club paperwork could be stored. This was to ensure any new person taking on a role would have a basis to work from. It has been a lot of hard work and not yet fully complete but has been built up over the past two years.

Our website has had some lovely feedback since it was ‘born’ in 2013 and whilst not professionally developed and my very first attempt at a website; it has been commended as user friendly and very informative, especially to new members. I spend a lot of time keeping the site as up to date as possible as I see no point in an out of date website.

I have taken a lot of pride in compiling the archive information for the website. I am grateful to Anne Taylor who had a fabulous supply of old show catalogues for me to use and to Jo McDonald who had previously done work on the Club history for the 90th Anniversary. This combined with examining and documenting information from old yearbooks gave me (and I hope others), a broader insight into the development of our Club.

Very positive feedback has been received on our admin procedures; such as our online entry for working events and membership and I thank everyone for their kind comments. It is a good feeling knowing that while we may only be ‘a dog club’ – we constantly strive to be a ‘well run dog club’. The fact I am working with good committees and forward thinking Officers has helped enormously as everyone’s aim is to be welcoming and inclusive to all; and from comments received at events and in writing - we certainly are on the right track.

In December we launched our Puppy Register. This is a free service to members and we would like to see more member breeders making use of it. We are finding that demand for suitably health tested Labradors, is far outweighing the litters we publicise; especially on the working side. There is only one form to complete on the website or alternatively contact Jo McDonald the co-ordinator direct, who is very helpful.

In 2014 we hosted 2 Shows, 5 Working Tests, 4 Field Trials, a Show Gundog day plus an eye testing clinic; all of which were well attended and will be reported on by the individual secretaries; this was as well as manning areas at Northumberland County Show and the Yorkshire Game Fair and competing in two working team events.

Our Membership has increased for a third successive year. At the end of 2014 we had 474 members. Hopefully this is an endorsement that we are providing members with comprehensive activities, support and a friendly atmosphere.

*As postage costs continue to rise, our default method of contact is email, so please keep us updated if you change your email address. Unlike some clubs however, we **will** continue to post information to those who request it.*

Whilst our Show events have used a well established online entering system for some years; 2014 was only the second year of us offering the option of applying and paying for membership and entering working tests online direct with the club. In 2014 we extended this to field trials; which has been well received. I am very aware of the other two online systems being offered externally. We already had our system in place before these began. Our system works well, but both other options have been looked at and we will monitor their progress. I appreciate our system does not offer the comprehensive options of some; but we will always try to improve where we can, and at least we still retain 'the personal touch'!

Now a lot of thank 'yous' to the people who have helped me settle into the Secretary role this year.

Firstly Lynda and Jill for being supportive and very knowledgeable; keeping me right with club procedures whilst allowing me freedom to develop and improve club admin systems. Hopefully I will be less demanding next year - I can't promise! but hope I have lessened the workload you both had to cover.

To Fiona Maclean for her work as membership secretary. Fiona also organized the Show Gundog Working Certificate last year which was a success and she worked with other members to organise our presence at Northumberland County Show.

To Kay Jenkins for giving me a better understanding of show matters and for trying to get stuck in with the new admin set up in the dreaded Drop box! To Jo McDonald for co-ordinating the Puppy Register, for her help at various club events, and organising Club attendance at the Yorkshire Game Fair in 2014.

To Lee Hartis and Steve McDermott - the main contributors to my greying hair colour and increasing wine consumption! But who have also taken time to help me more understand the intricacies of working events and most importantly, have readily shared information on contacts and procedures, enabling me to build up a comprehensive central record of working events which was previously nonexistent. They have also given me more than a few laughs - and songs! along the way and I have repaid them both with countless early morning emails, texts and nagging!

There are many others who have been supportive during the year such as Samantha Whyte in her role of FT Liaison Representative and all the committee members who have welcomed me into the role; but the biggest thanks of all goes to my husband Brian, who has folded running cards, stuffed and stuck envelopes, repaired club trophies and put up with the hundreds of early morning to late night phone calls and messages on Club issues.

Finally thank you to the committee members who left us this year and even bigger thanks to the new people who have joined our committee to provide enthusiasm and commitment to help our events run smoothly. It is a big 'ask' for people to give up precious spare time from busy lives and you are all greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks go to the members (and non-members) who, whilst not on committees; come along to our events and offer their assistance. These joint efforts helped us provide a set of very successful events in 2014.

Our events sponsors have been very generous again this year and with the continual valued support of our working events hosts, we have been privileged to have access to some very beautiful and diverse countryside. I wish everyone a very happy and productive 2015 season."

“The Committees have all worked hard to provide very successful events whilst continuously looking at ways to reduce their expenditure. This hard work has resulted in the Club having a balancing amount at the end of 2014 of £21807.72 and this means we have achieved the highest balancing figure for at least the last five years and probably longer than that. No mean effort with costs rising each year. We aim to keep the bank balance at between £19,000 and £20,000 to protect the club and its Members. If we do not do this then, for example, an overspend of £600 for two years on each of the 14 or 15 events we run, will mean the Club could be virtually bankrupt.

The categories in the accounts this year will not always compare with last year’s as we have changed how we record some of these categories, for example Stationery. As we are now doing most of the printing in house, it is very difficult to break down the cost of consumables such as ink and allocate it to individual events so most stationery is now allocated to the Club as a whole. Exceptions might be printing of catalogues for shows which are done collectively by FosseData and therefore remain allocated to the relevant Show though other stationery such as paper and envelopes are not.

Mr Paul Glaholm, our Accountant has prepared and signed the Accounts for 2014.

As mentioned in my report last year he felt that he would have to charge the Club for future work and he would charge 50% of his normal rate. He has therefore charged £210 being for six hours work done on the 2014 Accounts and that amount is shown in these accounts. He has said that he will review the accounts again at the end of this year but has intimated that he might not do so next year. We would therefore be grateful for any suggestions of Accountants who may be prepared to do this work though Paul has said that fewer people are prepared to do this voluntary work because of the impact the time involved has on their paid work.

Copies of the Accounts for 2014 are available tonight and if you have any questions regarding these, then please ask and I will try to help.”

“In 2014 we had 196 entries to our four field trials (three novice and one two day open).

All trials went well. Naturally there were a few minor problems as can be expected but overall we had excellent feedback on all events; especially Whitfield Two Day Trial and Wemmergill Novice.

I have consciously tried to reduce expenditure as much as possible and as a result managed to get the loss on trials down over £1000 to the prior year. This, with the successful working test season; has meant the working events overall made a reasonable profit. Hopefully this will continue.

We are extremely grateful to our landowners who allow us to use their grounds for our trials and letters of thanks were sent immediately following the trials along with a small gift of appreciation.

I would also like to say thank you for the hard work and support from Irene Davison throughout my first year as Field Trial Secretary”.

“Working Test Season 2014 comprised of five working tests held at: Shotley Bridge, Scotchcoulthard, Wemmergill, Streatlam Park and Eggleston Fell.

The club showed to have good entry figures throughout the working test season and it was noted that a portion of the entries were from new individual handlers to the sport.

The feedback from individuals attending our tests was very positive and with the inclusion of reports on social media, this increased; which I think has continued the Club being held in high regard with members and also future new members to the Club; which can be hopefully be seen in the increased membership figures already mentioned.

The feedback from the landowners from the above schedule has been positive overall, which has allowed the club to continue to run our working tests for 2015. These have started already and have started where we left off last year; with good attendance.

On a personal note, as Working Test Secretary, the first year has been a learning curve; the amount of social time outside the actual event commandeered by members, new enquiries, judging appointments, visiting new venues and landowners is substantial to say the least. On the other side to this; on the events day, the Northumberland and Durham Committee members (working and show), were ever present at all events which presented throughout the season with a good team performance.

The Club continues to receive sponsorship for our events from Skinner's Dog Foods and Gundog Gear; thank you to Lee Hartis for organising this.

As I mentioned before, social media has a big part to play within the promotion of the Club and I would like to thank Gary Barrett for the coverage of our events within this area. A letter of thanks was sent to Gary at the end of the 2014 season as were letters to all judges and land owners.

I would like to offer thanks to all the judges, dummy throwers and helpers through the year and a personal thank you to Irene Davison for her support throughout the season.”

"Hello everyone.

Another year over and I am pleased to say it seems to be getting easier. I think so anyway.

In February we held the eye testing clinic with Stewart Ellis in attendance. We had fewer dogs than normal this year as it was the last day of the shooting season,. It was decided to hold the eye test the following year on the Sunday to accommodate as many dogs as possible.

We then moved on to the February Open Show held at Bowburn. Another well attended event. We were inspected by the Kennel Club. The Field Officer congratulated the Club on a well run, friendly show and indeed could find no fault with any aspect of the Show. We also received a letter from the Kennel Club to reiterate his findings commenting on the high standards and hard work of all those responsible for the show. WELL DONE EVERYONE.

We are very lucky to have Kirkley Hall to host the October Championship Show with its ample parking and facilities. We had a very good entry and lots of quality dogs for our judges to go over.

I was however extremely disappointed to receive a number of complaints about coughing dogs and I know committee did have a word with exhibitors where possible.

I am told we were one of the last clubs to vet dogs on entry and I do wonder if this practice should come back. Other than that, no further incidents were to report.

All that's left for me to do is thank everyone for the continued support, as without you we couldn't hold these events. We have a great team on the committee who always pull out all the stops to put on a show for the benefit of our exhibitors. We all give up our spare time to run the events to the best of our ability. The judges may judge the dogs at the shows, but how the shows are as a whole, is down to us and I believe we are doing a great job. Thank you all. I look forward to the year ahead and the challenges it will bring."

Sheila Walton, who is our Breed Representative to the Breed Liaison Council, gave a report. She informed us that one of the bi-annual meetings had been cancelled due to lack of items on the Agenda. Her report whilst very thorough read like an exercise in *“banging your head against a brick wall!”* Basically, Clubs can suggest items for inclusion; they can get passed by the Liaison Council and are then blocked by the next committee up. She gave a good example: a question had been asked about the KC passing judges and ignoring Breed Council decisions with regard to judge’s criteria. The answer was Council can have whatever criteria it wants, but the KC uses its own!

There were only two proposals on the Agenda:

- 1. Midlands Counties LRC wish to propose:** *‘All future applicants for the A3 judges list must have attended and passed the Advanced Breed Judging Seminar according to the Kennel Club’s Code of Best Practice. A pass certificate must be produced with the CV’* - **Proposal Agreed**
- 2. Three Ridings LRC wish to propose for discussion:** The concept of "designer dogs" is considered to be an increasing problem. Due to a lack of concern being expressed by breeders of pedigree dogs it may be seen by the general public that deliberate cross-breeding is now not only acceptable, but even results in healthier dogs, despite not being able to perform the health checks now available for those pedigree breeds.

Three Ridings proposes that representatives of the Labrador Breed Council should meet with representatives from the Poodle Breed Council to discuss strategies with which to inform the general public that so-called "labradoodles" and other such cross-bred dogs, are not "new designer breeds" but simply cross-breeds with combined names – **Proposal Not Agreed**

Health Sub-Committee. Some discussions took place about the cancellation of the five yearly election of Breed Health Council and Breed Health Sub Committee. It was agreed at the meeting that the Committee be eight. This will be formed from the two health co-ordinators and the six Health Sub-Committee members. This was a change from the original sub-committee of six (*which was added by the KC when they introduced Breed Health Council*). Breed Council Secretary to circulate clubs for nominations.

Judge for Inclusion onto the Non Breed Specialist A3: Mr Ed Casey (CV enclosed) PASSED.

THE LABRADOR BREED COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE

At the suggestion/request of the KC a breed survey will be taking place during 2015. The expectation is that this will give an impression of the health of the breed as of 2015. The KC will be emailing registered owners; please fill in the survey, honestly and openly - we need a baseline and then we can see over time any emerging conditions or any improvements we as breeders have made.

The letter written to KC by the BHSC in 2013 asking them to not allow breeding between two parents neither of whom were DNA tested for GPRA, was not responded to.

However, it was confirmed that the KC are now operating the system of writing to anyone who has bred an affected. Anecdotally, the meeting heard of examples, where Labradors affected by GPRA are sometimes diagnosed by ophthalmological referral vets who were not on the BVA/KC eye panel. These cases are not automatically entered into the KC/BVA eye scheme and therefore not added to breed data. It was agreed a letter to be sent to the KC and copied to the RCVS and BVA would be drafted by Joy Venturi Rose and circulated for comments.

The Breed Health Sub Committee had applied for the breed to become part of Kennel Club Control Scheme with regard to GPRA PRCD1. The application was at Level 1; which would require all matings to have at least one parent hereditary or tested clear in each mating. **This application was refused by the Kennel Club.**

Not read out but for reference if questions asked:

Level 1 From [DAY/MONTH/YEAR] all [BREED] used for breeding should be either DNA tested for [CONDITION] or be classed as hereditarily clear (HC) of [CONDITION] before being used for breeding. Identified genetically affected or carriers can be used for breeding, but they should only be mated to a dog that is either hereditarily clear of [CONDITION] or one that has been DNA tested clear of [CONDITION]; carriers should not be mated to carriers or genetically affected dogs. Genetically affected dogs can only be mated to clear or HC dogs. No dog should be used for breeding where there is a welfare problem. All of the registered offspring of a carrier dog mated to a clear or hereditarily clear must be clearly identified, DNA tested, and registered as either clear or carrier. All of the registered offspring of an affected dog mated to a clear or HC will be automatically assigned a hereditarily carrier status.

JVR will put an introduction and link on a variety of facebook sites directing them to the Breed Council web site health section and the breed health co-ordinators. Stating we are always happy to answer questions from breeders or owners in the UK. It was agreed that Information BHC have should be made freely available.

Comments on Elbow and Hip Scoring Advice. The BVA/KC advice and information for breeders and owners is now thought to be too prescriptive for breeders having to tackle lots of other health conditions as well as type, temperament, inbreeding co-efficient etc. The statistical relevance of Mean Median and Mode in a non norm referenced population is also an issue. Estimated Breeding Values data was also discussed. Discussion on best time to XRAY and variance of results was also discussed. The group considered that later was often better. A study comparing results of radiographs taken at both 1 and 2 years of age would be interesting. It was agreed that a letter

expressing the groups disquiet regarding the BVA/KC advice on elbow and hip scores as above would be written. It needed to be scientifically factual so would take a while to write to best effect. The group felt that in some cases the breeders who were testing were going to be unnecessarily penalised whilst those that did not test would not be so constrained by what they bred from. **Lynda Heron would further research her contacts for the evidence base for elbows.**

The group felt that we should continue to press for more rigor in PRA testing even though we are not listened to. **An initial letter was drafted for the chairman to circulate.**

Feedback to Breed Council

Elbow Dysplasia Scheme. There was mixed feeling about making this compulsory for the Assured Breeders Scheme. Ultimately the committee felt more discussion and scientific knowledge was required. The results of the comparison scheme between XRAYs and CAT scans was also considered desirable. There were also a number of environmental factors to consider regarding the development of elbow dysplasia.

BVA/KC There was disquiet over a Hip article, regarding mean and median scores and “chasing a moving target” without reference to the level at which HD was a problem to the animal.

Silver Labradors: Regarding coat colour, other breeds had obviously been involved with the development of these non standard colours and this meant there was potential for introducing yet more inherited diseases into the Labrador breed pool.

The committee supported a voluntary system of recording DNA results on the mate select web site.
(End of report)

***A Kennel Club information sheet about Control Schemes was available for viewing at the AGM and is available on the Kennel Club website.*

18th February 2015

“Hi Everyone,

I was unable to attend the Field Trial Liaison Council meeting in June 2014. This was because I had a new baby boy and the sleep deprivation was doing it's best to kill me! I have now once again, as women do, learnt to multitask on little sleep and I'm back firing on all cylinders.

The main but hardly mentioned big electronically advancement last year was the Kennel Club's introduction of online entries for Field Trials by Fosse Data, which clubs are welcome to use. There are now 4 possible ways clubs can offer members entry to a field trials.

- 1) A club's own online system.*
- 2) Kennel Club/Fosse Data system*
- 3) The Field Trial Management system*
- 4) Tradition paper entries.*

My personal view is that it will be most likely that the Kennel Club/Fosse Data system will become the universal online entry system because as time goes on trialers will be irritated that they have to constantly log into different systems with different passwords for different clubs so I watch this space with interest.

The Field Trial Liaison Council meeting back in June 2014 had 5 proposals submitted to the Field Trial Sub Committee, 4 of which were approved and the amendments to these JRegs are not highlighted in the 2015 Field Trial JRegs booklet but are here as follows – J6.c.3 J7.g J7.h J(A)3.g

Also 3 discussion items were published in the Field Trial Winter Newsletter in the form of Best Practice to give guidance. 2 of these items related to admin, the recommended practice for novice trial draws and the recommended practice of the way clubs communicate and inform members of club matters, which is an interesting and vital read for all club secretaries. The 3rd discussion item related to the practicalities of judging.

This concludes my report other than to say if any committee member ever wishes to discuss any matter with me please don't hesitate to get in touch. Alternatively if you feel more comfortable you can ask Irene, Lee or Steve to do so on your behalf as we now have our very own Facebook Messenger group, instant chatting is us!

*Kind regards
Samantha.*

*Samantha Whyte
Field Trial Liaison Council Representative
(Northumberland & Durham Labrador Retriever Club)
(Lincolnshire Gundog Society).”*

“Many thanks for the AGM information Irene. Will you please give apologies for June and Su Roberts as we won’t be able to make the meeting. We hope everything goes well.

I wonder if members might be interested in the number of dogs from the North East that we helped last year. 2014 was a rather quiet year as we only re-homed 64 in total. The North East dogs we helped are as follows:-

Handed in

Brownie - from Redcar. A chocolate dog with allergies from a family who were all profoundly deaf. Brownie now lives in South Yorkshire where we are supporting his veterinary bills.

Wispa - from Woddington. A young dog handed in by her elderly owner as she was too much for him Wispa is now settled in a new home.

Adopted

Milo – now living in Darlington

Bess – elderly black bitch who came through following the death of her owner. She is now fostered and currently living in Morpeth (we are supporting her vet bills).

Roxy - who now lives in Newcastle.

*Kind regards
Su and June Roberts”*