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NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Wednesday 7pm on 20th April 2016 at Bowburn Community Centre

Those Present:

I. Davison, L. Hartis, S. Thatcher, N. Bujnoch, J. Smart, J. Lawson, L. Thompson, J. McDonald, A. Beckley, K. Jenkins, J. Christon, S. Whyte, W. Wilson, J. Dickson, F. Maclean, R. Rochford, I. Palmer, D. Fisher, D. Bratton, L. Heron, A. Burke, K. Leith-Ross and S. McDermott.

1 Apologies received and accepted from: J. and S. Roberts, A. Ward, Mr and Mrs Gardner, P. Dixon, J. Dobson, Mr and Mrs Hay, Miss S. Shankar, Mrs J. Wilson, Mrs C. Mitchell, Mr W. Lambell and Mr J. Cavana.

2 Minutes of previous AGM for approval and adoption.
Copies of 2015 draft minutes had been available on the website from April 2015 and were available at the meeting. Acceptance proposed: J. Smart, Seconded: A. Beckley.
2015 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 Labrador Clubs AGM. It's nice to see you all here tonight. I do wish that there were one or two more people here, but I accept that everyone is busy and a quiet AGM is usually the sign of a happy club; let's hope that's the case!"

Sadly this year we've lost three long-standing members Tom Orrick, David Wheatcroft and most recently Neville Barlow. As you all know Neville was a long standing member of the committee and past vice-chairman and chairman. He sadly died from leukaemia after a short illness. His funeral is on Friday morning at Willington for anybody who would like to attend.

Following David Wheatcroft's sudden death at a field trial, members of the club decided they would like to purchase a defibrillator and we thank the members who fund raised to help towards the cost. This has now been purchased and is available at all our events should it be needed.

We've had a number of years with a settled group of officers which has been wonderful but sadly that situation is changing this year as Jill Dickson our Treasurer - who has done an absolutely amazing job on the accounts, decided to step down. Whilst I understand this decision, I know we are going I miss her hugely.

Jill, I want to thank you very much for all you have done.

I do have a small insight of how many hours is spent on the accounts and the detail and level of accuracy and importance you place on traceability and the systems that you have put in place. This

has been a big weight off my mind. It does mean that you will be a very tough act to follow but also that in so many ways the job will be easier because of your hard work. We are all grateful for that. Anne Beckley has agreed to return to the job she did many years ago. I do know that already she has seen a vast change in that job with many additional duties including online payments – Anne, thank you and good luck. I would just like to offer Jill this token of our appreciation I hope that she is able to use it in all of the new spare time she's going to have.

The officers and subcommittee secretaries Irene, Steve, Kay and Lee are all settled in to their roles and the whole thing is running like clockwork.

Fiona has had a busy year with the membership price changes, more later. Thank you. I would also like to thank each and every one for playing their part in making this such a good club.

I found myself saying the other day that people who joins dog clubs, join for what they can get out of it not what they can give to it. I hope in this club that one or two more of our members will think about putting something back. In order that the couple of dozen people who do keep this club running, have more support. If you do; you will find we are a friendly bunch who have a lot of fun and you would also get more out of your hobby. If you are interested in getting involved, all you need to do is to speak to anyone of the committee members and officers or myself, and we will be very quick to welcome you and find you a job. I know you will enjoy becoming more involved.

Thank you.

*Just leaves me to handover to the secretary for her report - Irene
(Lynda was thanked for her report).*

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

“Good evening everyone and thank you for attending our Annual General Meeting to review 2015.

Firstly, a final reminder that membership subscriptions are due on the 1st of January each year.

It is your responsibility to ensure these are paid at the correct rate, at the correct time. There was a lot of increased work during 2015 chasing up short payments following the membership price increase which had been well notified to members since 2013.

Club rules state that if you are not fully paid up by the end of March (which already gives members 3 months courtesy); you will not receive the benefits afforded to fully paid up members – which includes; reduced costs of events and eye testing, and importantly for our field trialers; you will not get preference in that years trial draws if you are not fully paid up by end of March. If you have any queries on your membership status; please contact Fiona Maclean. For member's convenience, we accept payments by standing order, cheque, on line via the website and through Fosse Data.

During 2015 all Kennel Club requirements were fulfilled, including our Annual Returns which were fully accepted. We again had a few months to wait for the Kennel Club to update their website with our contact details; but after several reminders, we got there.

As a firm advocate of sharing information and as administrator for the working events too, I am continually building up the club's central records which allows all officers to access Club paperwork easily; as in my eyes it is impossible to run any type of organisation efficiently without having access to past and present documentation. It also helps any new person taking on a role.

Managing the clubs' email account is becoming increasingly busy – but very productive. I would say email is now by far the main form of contact for most members and non-members, as well being very popular for those applying and paying for events and membership.

As the website administrator; I try and keep things fresh and up to date. I regularly get messages of thanks for it being so comprehensive, especially from new members and people looking to become involved in Labrador activities. From the website figures it can be seen that we have a steady stream of new visitors viewing the site, showing that visitors explore the site in detail when they visit; hopefully due to it being informative and up to date. Part of administering the website includes updating the Puppy Register in liaison with Jo McDonald the Co-ordinator. This is a free service to members and we would still like to see more member breeders making use of it to help people in their search for suitably health tested Labradors.

With the completion of the working trophy refurbishment and logging their whereabouts; hopefully they will be more cherished by the Club in future and by the winners who have them in their care. It would be great to see the show trophies having the same treatment and being visible on the website – if any committee member fancies taking on the challenge?

During 2015 we hosted 2 Shows, 5 Working Tests, 3 Field Trials, a breed seminar plus an eye testing clinic; all of which were well attended and will be reported on by the individual secretaries. We also held a scurry and information stand at Northumberland County Show and further competed in two working team events with very good results in both. We were 2nd place in the local inter club test and yet again, secured qualification for the prestigious Chatsworth Club Team event in 2016; after coming 2nd in 2015 against other top teams in the country. Thanks to everyone who has represented the Club and helped at events.

I would like everyone to remember that there are only around 20 people who manage the activities and direction of the Club. A very small bunch of people who have committed to give up some of their spare time so others can enjoy their hobby and sport. You are all greatly appreciated by the club and hopefully the wider membership.

Our membership is healthy. At the end of December we had 436 members, which hopefully is an endorsement that we provide members with comprehensive activities, support and a friendly atmosphere. We do try hard to be a progressive club that is not complacent and will embrace new initiatives for the benefit of our membership wherever possible.

Unlike many clubs; despite email being our default method of contact; we will continue to post information to those who request it; but I would ask as many people as possible to use email as it is faster, cheaper for all and helps cut down on unnecessary paper.

Thanks to everyone who has come on board this year to help on committees and at events. New ideas are encouraged; and many hands make light work. The fact we now have full committees is testament that people are wanting to be more involved with the Club.

Our event sponsors have been very generous again this year; and with the invaluable support from our working events hosts; we are privileged to access some beautiful and diverse countryside – which, thanks to Gary Barrett and others, can be showcased in great pictures of our area and events. Sincere thanks also go to members (and non-members) who come along to events to help out. This is the way it should be, if we want our activities to flourish. Committee members can only do so much.

The Club is losing a very valued and respected officer today. We are sorry to say our Honorary Treasurer, Jill Dickson has decided to enjoy her retirement more fully with her husband Dud, children and grandchildren. Jill has put in place some excellent systems for our accounts and is known as a stickler for detail. This may have caused upset to some, but was done for all the right reasons and

everyone soon got into the habit of following her robust procedures. Jill and I built up a good working relationship. We've had some laughs at our own shortcomings and good moans comparing illnesses and I would like to thank her for all the help she has given me personally as well as all she has done for the club. I am sure her successor will be thankful of the hard work she has put in these past years. Jill has elected to stay on as part of the General Committee.

I hope you feel I have fulfilled the Secretary and website administrator roles well on behalf of the membership; I'm not infallible and have no problem admitting to my mistakes, but I try my very best for the good of the Club. I'm always open to constructive comments on where we can further improve, so please get in touch if you have any ideas. I wish everyone a very happy and productive 2016." (Irene was thanked for her report).

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

"We have had another successful year and the results of the Year End Accounts confirmed this with a healthy balance of £23161.76. The Show and Working Secretaries will cover the income and expenses for all of their Events throughout 2015 in their Reports to you.

There are no other changes to report and all the systems in place for recording income and expenditure are working well. We have systems which reflect good practice and there is an effective audit trail which is both paper and electronic. Audit trails are a good way to find out if transactions are being conducted smoothly and truthfully and are an effective tool for overseeing the Club's finances hence why it is so important to have receipts for every transaction.

The Accounts for the year from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 have been examined, as usual, by Mr Paul Glaholm F.C.P.A. and copies of these Accounts are available for you tonight. If you have any questions regarding these then please ask and I will try to help.

As you know this is my last year in my role as Honorary Treasurer and I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past few years and my very best wishes go to my successor." (Jill was thanked for her report).

No issues or questions were raised regarding the 2015 accounts and **acceptance was proposed by W. Wilson and seconded by A. Burke – Unanimously agreed.**

7. Field Trial Secretary's Report: Lee Hartis, F.T. Secretary
See Appendix 1

8. Working Test Secretary's Report: Steven McDermott, W.T. Secretary
See Appendix 2

9. Show Secretary's Report: Kay Jenkins, Show Secretary
See Appendix 3

10. Club Representative Annual Reports for 2016
a) Breed Council – Lynda Heron - **See Appendix 4**
Breed Health – Lynda Heron - **See Appendix 5**
b) Field Trial Liaison Representative's Report
See Appendix 6.

11. 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 in 2015 was a seminar of interest to all at Croft Hospital, Cramlington where we will had two guest speakers Dr Tom Lewis (man behind the science of the Kennel Club's Mate Select programme) who delivered a talk on Estimated Breeding Values and Coefficients of Inbreeding.

The afternoon session was a talk from Richard Edwards (a notable Labrador historian) on the History and Development of the Labrador. The day was extremely informative for everyone that attended. In 2016 the bursary of £300 for these events is for the Working side who planned to hold a KC Judge Education seminar.

12. Honoraria

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

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

As per the agenda, nominations had been received, suitably proposed and seconded for all existing officers with the exception of the Honorary Treasurer, Jill Dickson following her decision to retire. A nomination for the Hon. Treasurer role had been received from Anne Beckley which was accepted and voted on. **(Unanimously agreed). It was further unanimously agreed to re-elect officers and sub-committee Secretaries plus associated roles as listed on Agenda.**

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

Nominations from previously co-opted committee members, re-election of existing committee members and new committee members. All nominations had been correctly proposed and seconded and were voted on en bloc and **unanimously accepted.**

Natasha Bujnoch (General Committee)
Joanne Wilson (Working Sub-committee)
Wendy Wilson (Show Sub-committee and General Committee)
Linda Thompson (General Committee)
Jill Dickson (General Committee)
Bill Lambell (Working Sub-committee)
Ros Rochford (Show Sub-committee)
Denise Fisher (Show Sub-committee)
Denise Bratton (Show Sub-committee)

Two nominations had been received for the Breed Council Representative: Joanne MacDonald and Lynda Heron. A secret ballot took place and the **majority vote was for Lynda Heron to continue as Breed Council Representative.**

Samantha Whyte was not requiring re-election as K.C. F.T. Liaison Representative. This was done by the Kennel Club in May 2015. She had been put forward as club representative by us last year and remains our Club rep for the next three years.

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. Subject to his agreement, members agreed to retain the services of Mr Glaholm and in the event of him not being able to continue; a second auditor would be approached.

15. Rules and Regulations Amendments (as attached to Agenda circulated to all members)

Three rules were proposed to be changed. In the main this was wording which required updating.

The rules were unanimously agreed to amendment on items 4, 8, 9, and 14.

Item 20 regarding Confidential Use of Society Information was discussed and Jill Dickson tabled a counter proposal that no alteration take place. After thorough discussion it was felt the rule change should not take place. This was voted on and **(Unanimously agreed)**.

16. Proposals by members received by 5th April 2016.

None received.

17. Any Other Business

No additional items were tabled but one request had been omitted.

***During his apology email for absence; Mr Paul Dixon had asked that a motion be tabled thanking the officers and committees of the club for their hard work over the last year.*

Steve McDermott raised the possibility of leaving trial draws off Facebook/social media. Discussion took place and it was recognised that this was a powerful media device and in context; people regularly update their status to 'gone on holiday', 'out for the day' etc. which amounted to the same and it was therefore felt the publication was justified. Sam Thatcher also stated she felt dogs were very vulnerable if left in unattended areas in cars during events. This would be kept in mind for future events.

Lynda was thanked for chairing the meeting which closed at 9.38pm

Minutes approved and adopted at 2017 AGM – Wednesday 26th April 2017

Signed: L. Heron Chairperson

"In 2015 we had 214 entries to our three field trials (4 were scheduled, but unfortunately one was cancelled due to low grouse counts). This was still an increase on 2014 entries. We ran two novice trials at Ford and Etal Estate and Eggleston Fell; and a two day open qualifier at Whitfield and overall we had successful events with good judging and worthy winners.

In my second year, I have tried to reduce trial expenditure further; even ordering and selling gundog equipment at events to help subsidise them, as well as increasing the cost to guns. This has helped to get the loss on trials down further to earlier years. Had Wemmergill trial gone ahead; we may have done even better.

With the successful working test season; it means the working events overall made a profit again; similar to last year - which both Steve and I will work hard to keep going. I am very grateful to our landowners, agents and keepers, who allow us to use their grounds for our trials. Letters of thanks and a small gift were either handed over at the trial or posted the next day. We are also very thankful to our trial sponsors Skinners.

We were fortunate to secure good trial judges yet again, who I cannot thank enough for giving up their time to ensure we had successful events; and I'm happy to report that we already have most of the judges in place for 2016 trials. We also have confirmation that our four trial grounds for 2016 are approved and licences applied for from the Kennel Club.

Due to the shortage of panel judges in our area; the field trial committee decided to hold a Kennel Club Education Seminar this February; where people could also sit the panel judge exam. It was very popular with places quickly filled, so hopefully we will see a few more panel judges in the area soon. I would like to thank the people who came to help out at the trials. Without them it is hard to run events well, plus it gives people the chance to watch and learn from judges and competitors up close.

Our teams of guns shot very well and I'd like to thank Field Trial Committee Member, Ian Palmer for helping secure those. We made some changes to our F.T. Regulations which worked well. By doing away with nomination and admin fees, there is a lot less paperwork for members, with payment for the run being paid by cheque on the day. Our trial entry prices went up. But by removing the nominations and admin fees; (which many clubs still have), the increase was small plus it now costs nothing to enter the draw. There was also the benefit of not having to write out cheques and nomination forms; saving members' time and money. Our on line entry system was also very popular.

We did have one member complaint regarding the change to the 'substitution rule'. Despite our explanations that this was not a Club Rule Change; the member exercised his right to take the complaint to the Kennel Club who completely upheld our decision which had been previously agreed at committee. The Kennel Club advised the member that his complaint was unfounded and we had acted correctly.

My thanks to Gary Barrett for coming to as many events as he can to provide everyone with some great pictures of the working events which are posted on our Facebook page and website. Thanks to Irene Davison for her support and hard work with the trials throughout the year and to Steve McDermott for his support throughout the season. I'd like to thank Sam Whyte for her contributions, as she keeps us up to date with any new KC developments - and – not forgetting the Field Trial Committee who all worked hard to make our 2015 season a success. Thank you.

“Good evening everyone. Can I first ask the meeting to join me in congratulating our Field Trial Secretary, Lee Hartis on securing a place on the England Gundog Team again this year? We all wish him luck.

2015 we held 5 working tests which were very successful; in fact we had again, record breaking attendances throughout the season. Overall the working tests realised a profit of £1189. This successful season helped offset the losses on the trials and still meant working events overall made a profit of around £750.

As with many clubs, we have found it sometimes difficult to get volunteers to help at the events with dummy throwing. As this can sometimes be a long day for people we decided to start giving a small gift to our helpers in appreciation of their efforts. We do wish more people would come forward as it seems to be committee members and a regular set of people who offer to help. It has been heartening to see so far this year, we have had more volunteers coming forward. I'd like everyone to remember if not for people giving up a bit of their time; the events could even be cancelled. It seems gone are the days where you basically served your apprenticeship in tests and trials – coming to help to find out more about the how the events are run.

Our events could not go ahead without the generous land owners who allow us to use their stunning grounds. We are very grateful to them all and always make sure they receive our thanks and a small gift of our appreciation.

We retain our valued sponsors Skinners Dog Foods who donate money off vouchers for dog food and Gundog Gear who donate a voucher that we award to the highest scoring dog of the day. We also give our thanks to Gary Barrett for coming to our events and providing us with some great photos of the day.

Our judges (typically four per day) have been very gracious in giving up their time to allow us to enjoy our sport and again they receive our thanks, lunch and refreshments and a small gift with our sincere appreciation. All judges are approachable and willingly give encouragement to competitors and tips but everyone has to remember it is a competition and not a training day and time is limited to ensure we do not have excessively long days.

Our Team of Roz McIlroy, Karen Parkinson, Paul Hasney and Brian Dodsworth did very well for the club in coming 2nd in the local Interclub competition hosted last year by Burns and Becks. The team is selected by me from consistent handlers throughout the season. As agreed with our committee, I do not automatically pick the winner of one of our tests. If that person has only one or two placings in many tests; I would rather choose a dog that has been in the placings more regularly – displaying consistency. Naturally sometimes it never works how we plan. Other clubs may choose before us and the preferred people may already be running elsewhere; but I try my best to field a strong team from our membership that importantly can perform well in team situations.

Lee chooses the Chatsworth team and last year we were pleased to see N&D finish 2nd ensuring automatic qualification for this year's competition. We wish them luck.

I'd like to thank the FT committee for their support and input last year and also Irene for her help sorting the paperwork. “

"Hello everyone.

Another year has passed and I'm pleased to report 2015 has been busy, but we have a great committee who are always keen to help. Also the many helpers who assist on the day.

The year started with the annual eye test. This is always very well attended and our vet Mr Stuart Ellis hardly has time to eat his lunch! We always do our best and get through about 70 dogs.

We move on to the February Open show held in Bowburn Community centre, where our judge was Barbara Krumpak from Slovenia. Barbara has owned Labradors since the 1980s she has shown and worked her dogs for many years. Her judging career has taken her to many European countries and was looking forward to judging our show. She very kindly paid her travel expenses and Kira did a great job of hosting her and her partner.

Barbara did a brilliant job going over some nice dogs. On the day she commented on how good her steward was [many thanks George Ternent]. She also commented on what a warm friendly club we were. In her show report she thanked the club for inviting her and expressed what a lovely time she had. The show went very well with thankfully no accidents or incidents to report.

The next event in the show calendar was the championship show held at Kirkley Hall, Ponteland. As usual this show was well attended.

Our judges were Mrs L. Dantines judging dogs and Mrs C Jury judging bitches with a total of 192 to go over.

In their show reports both judges expressed what a great day they'd had. They thanked the club and committee for our hospitality. The day ran very smoothly with a lot of hard work from all on the committee. The bacon sandwiches went down very well with the exhibitors.

*ALL IN ALL A HUGE SUCCESS. I would just like to say thank you to everyone for a very successful year.
THANK YOU"*

Unfortunately the Breed Council dates are out of sync for our AGM timing, therefore the items for 2016 were actually reported on in my 2015 report.

Briefly this includes the request to the KC to back up HNPk being an adopted test. This condition is rarely seen in working dogs. The current tests seen as ideal for breeding are at the core: Hips and Elbow scoring, Clear BVA Eye test and preferably PRA. These tests are important to both show and working types.

The testing for conditions of SD2 and CNM are in general, more prevalent in working Labradors with HNPk and EIC usually being tested for in Show Labradors. Naturally there is overlap between the 'types' and tests.

Mixed lines of show and working are encouraged to test for all 5 conditions.

Discussion took place on the subject of Upper Arm length. As this is not in the Breed Standard it should not be an issue when judging dogs.

- Following her re-election to Breed Council representative at the AGM, Lynda advised that she would be asking Jo MacDonald to accompany her to the meetings during 2016.
- Joanne MacDonald also asked that it be noted Breed Council had put forward the fact that Labradors come in only three colours, Black, Yellow and Chocolate/Liver and would mean judges can eliminate non-standard colours as it is stated in the breed standard.
- It was further discussed re the issue of Upper arm length has the wording altered to ensure people do not start breeding for arms too far under the chest.

THE LABRADOR BREED COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE

The last meeting was on the 11th April 2016 and I have summarised the content from the PROVISIONAL minutes for people tonight.

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 undertaking 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 dog’s 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 stated 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. **Macular 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 Panellist 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

“Ms Whyte came to the meeting to give the committee and members a report on the Field Trial Liaison Council (FTLC) and results of the last meeting. She explained her role as the Society’s representative, confirmed the date of the next meeting 4th May 2016 and explained the difference between proposals and discussion items.

Ms Whyte also said that there wasn't always a great deal of time between notification of the next council meeting and the deadline for proposals/discussion items to be put on the next FTLC meeting agenda.

She therefore suggested that at the last committee meeting of each year, the committee add to the agenda FTLC proposal/discussion items. This would then give herself and the committee time to discuss and submitted items for the next FTLC meeting.

She highlighted changes to the J Regs and the advise that had or would feature in the Field Trial Newsletters. These included:-

- 1. Competitors leaving trials early.*
- 2. Minimum draw timescales for field trials.*
- 3. Noisy Handling*
- 4. Health Issues & Testing requirements of the Assured Breeder scheme.*

She also added that the Field Trial Newsletter was now available for everyone to read if you subscribed your email address.

Ms Whyte mentioned that the current scoring system at working tests is to be discussed at the next FTLC meeting but confirmed that the J Regs currently states that each test is scored out of 20 not each retrieve within that test.

Ms Whyte concluded her report by mentioning the change of committee at the IGL and suggested that a new committee may be open to new ideas and reform. An example would be to ask, as a levy paying club, if the championship judge's selection process could be reviewed so once again clubs, could if they wanted to, take part in the selection process.

The Chairman thanked Ms Whyte for attending the meeting and her address.

- Much discussion ensued from the floor regarding the article Samantha read out on the issue of noisy handling with people experiencing such dropping in marks.
- Discussion also took place on the article in FT newsletter re novice dog trial preferences and Sam was asked to seek clarification that this was in fact correct when she attends the next meeting in May.
- A note will be made to include the FTLC on the last working sub-committee meeting of the year to enable any proposals from N&D to be passed to Samantha in good time.
- Much discussion also took place on the scoring of working tests. It was agreed that we do try to insist all tests (whether multiple retrieves or not) are scored out of 20.