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NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Held Tuesday 3rd April 2018, 7pm at Bowburn Community Centre

Those Present:

I. Davison, L. Heron, A. Beckley, K. Jenkins, L. Hartis, S. McDermott, J. Smart, W. Wilson, D. Fisher, D. Bratton, K. Leith-Ross, J. McDonald, L. Thompson, M. Mowatt, B. Davison, G. Atkinson, S. Thatcher, M. Olds, S. Shankar, J. Lees, I. Palmer, A. Burke, J. Corrigan and N. Bujnoch.

- 1 Apologies received and accepted from: T. Mullett, A-M. Coates, S. Roberts and J. Roberts, P. Williams, J. Charlton, G. White, C. Mitchell, S. Whyte, J. Christon, F. Maclean.
- 2 Minutes of previous AGM for approval and adoption.
Copies of 2017 draft minutes had been available on the website from May 2017 and were available at the meeting. Acceptance proposed: J.Smart, Seconded: K. Leith-Ross
2017 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, welcome to Northumberland and Durham's Annual General meeting.

We are a relatively large club of around 400 members, however as usual the faces around the room are the ones who give most back to the club by sitting on committees, attending events and generally putting back in to this prestigious club. Thank you.

The Club is blessed with two very committed officers and both Irene Davison (Hon. Secretary) and Anne Beckley (Hon. Treasurer) have yet again delivered above and beyond. Huge thanks once more. The roles you do with such skill are so important and go a long way to make the club the success it is and the membership can be confident the Club is in good hands.

Steve, Kay and Fiona have decided to step down from their roles of Working Test Secretary, Show Secretary and Membership Secretary. Thank you all very much for all you have done. Thanks also to Lee for all the work you put into the trials. Thanks also to Jeff for agreeing to take on the Working Test Secretary role and good luck at your first event this coming weekend.

As many of you know I have also decided to step down from the role of Chair. Having served for seven years, during which time I have enjoyed seeing the club go from strength to strength, I found that last year I struggled to motivate people in the way that I feel the Chair of a club should.

I was disappointed that despite nagging; people who had committed to do certain tasks didn't do them and I failed to get them to deliver on their promises. I was particularly sad that the event for our non-competition members didn't take place. In previous years I would have found the energy and time to drive the event forward. My apologies for not making it happen.

The Club did hold one non-core event last year, a mock trial, a first for the club and many thanks go to Joanne Wilson who took on the vast majority of the work securing the ground and judges.

The puppy register is a great resource run mainly by Linda Thompson, please keep her updated with news of litters as she gets more enquires for puppies than she can find puppies for!

As always, we are grateful to landowners without who our events tests and trials couldn't take place. Thanks also to our sponsors Skinners, Gundog Gear, James Wellbeloved and Royal Canin. Also our Auditor Paul Glaholm.

*I wish everyone all the best and look forward to seeing the club evolve and develop. Which just leaves me to hand over to Irene as Secretary to deliver her report.
(Lynda was thanked for her report).*

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

"As Club Secretary, I look after the general Club administration including ensuring our Annual returns and other necessary paperwork is provided to the Kennel Club in good time. I also maintain the Club's central records which I started since becoming Secretary. This allows officers to access Club paperwork at any time. We now also have a Club laptop which is available to all officers and for use at working events and shows if required.

As our default method of contact with members and outside organisations, the Club email account takes a lot of monitoring, receiving thousands of emails each year. It's also very popular for applying and paying for membership and working events. I try to ensure messages are answered promptly or passed to relevant people for their action. We will of course continue to post information to those that request it.

Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st of January each year. If your membership is not up to date by the end of March; you will not receive the benefits given to fully paid up members such as; reduced costs of events, eye testing and more importantly for our trialers; you will not get preference in that years trial draws if you are not fully paid up by the end of March. It is your responsibility to ensure subscriptions are paid at the correct rate, at the correct time.

It's useful to note that when new Data Protection laws come into effect this year we cannot hold members data for long, therefore if you do not pay your membership on time, after a given period your details will be erased from membership records and a new application will be required.

Our Facebook page is a popular place and most events/updates are posted on there too.

As well as Club Secretary duties, I provide admin support for our working tests and trials (as well as anyone else that needs assistance); as the paperwork involved can be daunting, especially with as many events as we hold.

During 2017 we hosted an eye clinic, 2 Shows, 6 Working Tests and 4 Field Trials all of which were well supported and will be reported on by the individual secretaries.

We also try to hold an 'educational event' as per the details Lynda has supplied. However the Working sub-committee did organise a Mock Field Trial for members new to trialling, and a Novice Dog/Novice Handler Day.

We are lucky that we never really struggle to fill committee posts but we are always looking for eager new committee members and if you feel you can help, please get in touch. Sincere thanks go to members (and non-members) who come along to events just to help out. We couldn't host our events without them - but we do need more, if we want our activities to flourish.

We hope to provide our membership with comprehensive activities, support and a friendly atmosphere. We will always try to embrace new ideas for the benefit of our membership wherever possible. Our sponsors have been very generous again this year as have our working events landowners – who all contribute greatly to the success of our events.

As Club website administrator; I try to keep our website as up to date as possible with events, results, health matters and archive information. We have a high volume of visitors viewing the website and they tend to explore it in detail; hopefully due to it being informative.

Part of updating the website includes the Puppy Register. This is a free service to members and we would still like to see more member breeders making use of it.

I hope you feel I have fulfilled the Secretary and website administrator roles well on your behalf. I'll continue to do my best for the Club but am always open to fresh ideas on where this can be improved.

Before I hand over to Anne our Treasurer, tonight we say thank you and good luck to four people who have stepped down from their roles in the 2017 year.

Steve McDermott stepped down as Working Test Secretary in July 2017 but remains on the FT committee and is Vice Chair. Jeff Smart has kindly offered to fill the test secretary role on a trial basis. Kay Jenkins steps down as Show Secretary (but is staying on committee). Fiona Maclean resigned as Membership secretary but we also thank Fiona for temporarily filling the working test secretary role for a couple of years to ensure events went ahead for members. And of course Lynda has resigned as Chair.

Lynda has been a strong Chair of this Club for the last 7 years, even managing to rope me in to the Secretary role and also into designing my first website! – considering all I originally volunteered for, was to help out with some typing of field trial running cards!

Lynda has helped the smooth transition of people into different roles and provided leadership and direction for the Club through our committees.

Her knowledge of the Labrador breed is second to none and her initiatives to promote better Labrador health have been relentless. She will be a great miss – but I'm sure she will not escape the phone calls and visits from many of the membership and committee.

I'd like to thank all those mentioned for their loyal service to the Club over the years and hope they enjoy the gifts we have bought for them, with our sincere thanks. However, Steve's not getting another one as he received his last year! Thank you." (Irene presented gifts).

6 Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Annual Accounts: Anne Beckley, Hon. Treasurer.

"Well I have survived another year as the Club's Treasurer and again I am pleased to report the Club has maintained a healthy balance as the Accounts will confirm.

The financial year started with 'envelope gate' as I like to call it. For some reason Santander insisted on posting envelopes to other people than myself when they were requested. Eventually they did manage to send them direct to me at the fifth time of asking and for our troubles the Club did benefit from £30 compensation. We also have plenty of envelopes too!

At the request of our excellent accountant, Paul Glaholm, I changed to the same software accounting package he uses. By doing this, and agreeing to give his services some promotion, we have saved the Club annually over £200 in fees. Again it was an uphill struggle familiarising myself with the program and issues with my internet provider didn't help as it resulted in entries that had been made disappearing into the ether and thus having to go back to the beginning each time to check everything was accounted for.

However, another big plus for using this software is that we got the Accounts back in record time and so I will continue using it as we don't have to renew the package annually.

Throughout the year the events run by our excellent Officers continue to be well attended and much appreciated by all participants. On their behalf I once again request members to ensure the following:

- *Cheques are signed and information for what they are for is recorded on the back*
- *Standing orders are for the correct value for membership payments*
- *If you pay by PayPal please remember the administrative fee*
- *Cash is given in an envelope with written detail for what it is for*
- *Please check you are paying the correct fees for whichever event you wish to participate in*

A big thank you to those of you who do the aforementioned. These may seem trivial points to some but they will aid our Officers immensely as time is precious to us all.

Unfortunately we had 'Wind gate' at one of our working tests resulting in the purchase of a new Event Shelter. We were unable to claim on the Club's Insurance and on checking the policy I questioned it's worth, which ironically, as the new Financial year began, has led to 'Insurance gate' – a tale to be told in next year's Treasurer's Report. I bet you can hardly wait!

And so I present to you the Accounts for the year from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 which have been examined, as usual, by Mr Paul Glaholm F.C.P.A. Copies of the Accounts are available for your perusal tonight. If you have any questions regarding them then please ask and I will try to help."
(Anne was thanked for her report.)

No issues or questions were raised regarding the 2017 accounts and **acceptance was proposed by W. Wilson and seconded by N. Bujnoch – 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 2017

- a) Breed Council/Breed Health – Lynda Heron **See Appendix 4**
- b) Field Trial Liaison Representative’s Report: Samantha Whyte **See Appendix 5.**
- c) Labrador Welfare update – **See Appendix 6**

11. Educational/Programme

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. In 2018 the Show side are due to benefit from the rotational event. It was suggested this could possibly be used towards a seminar on the new Judging Framework or another agreed Show based event. The Club does provide a bursary of £300 for these educational events but to-date, all have been self-financing. Lynda suggested it may be an opportunity to try and bring show and working ‘types’ more together (perhaps using input from experienced Labrador ‘experts’) to hear about each sides selection criteria for the breed. Show committee would need to meet to organise and agree a suitable event.

12. Honoraria

The people receiving honoraria were at this point asked to leave the room for discussion to take place. On completion of discussions the honoraria was reviewed and agreed by 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 some of the roles in question and committees.

The committee places were provided to AGM and were agreed by majority and voted on en bloc.

The individual roles were then put to AGM (correctly proposed and seconded). This resulted in majority decisions to elect Steve McDermott as Vice Chair, Irene Davison as Honorary Secretary and Website Administrator, Anne Beckley as Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Lee Hartis as Field Trial Secretary, Jeff Smart as Working Test Secretary. The position of Chair and Show Secretary were to be filled (Co-Opt) at a later date and would go back to Show and General Committee for discussion.

Election of Committees and Breed Council Representative

Nominations had been received from existing committee members seeking re-election and new members. Lynda Heron had also requested re-election as Breed Council representative and Breed Health representative on an interim basis to fulfil her previously agreed term of office agreed. All nominations had been correctly proposed and seconded and were voted on en bloc. **Proposed: G. Atkinson, Seconded: B Davison. Unanimously agreed.**

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 and remains our Club rep for the next two years. Similarly Lynda Heron had been appointed to Breed Health Co-ordinator for a period of 5 years from 2016 and did not require re-election. However members present expressed their agreement to the candidates involved.

14. Election of Auditors

Members had been very happy with the work of Mr Glaholm and agreed unanimously to retain his services for 2018.

15. Rules and Regulations Review - No rules were amended.

16. Proposals by members: None received.

17. Any Other Business:

Brief updates on the new Data Protection Laws (effective May 2018) were touched on by Irene and Joanne McDonald. Our membership information (kept in line with our Confidentiality Policy) is already fulfilling most of the criteria laid down.

The Kennel Club situation was that they would provide Clubs with more information soon (by May) but Joanne had managed to get a template outlining the requirements more fully and this would be discussed by General Committee to ensure we were fully compliant by the May deadline.

The meeting closed at 8.41pm (Sub-Committee Secretary reports etc. are attached).

2018 Draft Minutes were agreed at 2019 AGM 10th April

“In 2017 we had a very good amount of entries to our four field trials.

We ran two novice trials at Wemmergill and Ford and Etal Estate, a two day open qualifier at Whitfield and elected to use Eggleston Fell for an All Aged trial due to the excellent ground and diversity of game.

The trials all ran well and we secured very good judges. Unfortunately we didn't have a winner at Wemmergill novice trial but this was in no way reflective on the very fair judging and the fabulous grounds.

All trials had a lack of helpers on the day.

In my fourth year as field trial secretary, I have tried hard to keep costs down but the trials did not break even. There always seems to be something that we don't expect and this year we needed to purchase new game bags and additional radios (for safety reasons).

Even with the successful test season we could not make the working events show a profit in 2017, as the tests also had additional costs with the inter-club competition and buying necessary new equipment. However the minimal loss of below £100 for all 12 working events held.

We do feel we provide a lot more for our members than many other clubs with the number and quality of working tests and trials we host on superb grounds; so hopefully this is shown by a good steady number of members renewing their membership each year.

Our landowners all received a letter of sincere thanks and a gift and we are also very grateful to our working event sponsors Skinners and Gundog Gear for their continuing support.

I would like to thank those few people who came to help out at the trials with special mention to Jeff Smart and Sam Thatcher who attended every trial to help, as well as ensuring the Club defibrillator was in place (which luckily we didn't need).

Things would be much easier if more people from the membership and committee volunteered to help at events; and I cannot stress enough how much it gives people the chance to learn, by seeing the judging and competitors up close.

I'd like to thank Ian Palmer and Joanne Wilson for their help in securing the guns for Wemmergill and Whitfield trials. Thanks to Irene Davison for her support and hard work with the trials throughout the year.

All trial dates for 2018 have been agreed by our land owners and licences applied for and 90% of judges secured.

Thank you.

“The club held 4 events on the test schedule through 2017, operating the four-judge system per test. Venues were Leadhill House, Wemmergill Estate, Slaley, Northumberland, Streatlam Park and Eggleston Fell.

The first event was changed from a test to a NDNH day, where we invited people new to working tests to have a taster day with a working test in the afternoon.

It was our year to hold the Interclub event. Occasionally an invited team is allowed to take part and this year we invited URC Northern. The N&D team was chosen by the working test secretary based on consistency of performances throughout the year.

The day was held at Reiver Sporting Game and even though some clubs do pre-set their tests themselves before the competition, we invited ALL judges from the teams came to the ground to pre-set their own tests beforehand. They also ran their own dogs through the tests they had set. It was a good set of tests for Open standard dogs and a good way of ensuring the tests were fair to all taking part. All judges were very happy with the planning of the day and the hospitality we provided.

We were very pleased that N & D won the event and Lee Hartis and his dog (Flint) was top scoring dog of the competition. Well done everyone on the team (Lee, Dave Tulip, Sham and Grant Dawson). Special thanks to the helpers who did their part to ensure the day went ahead successfully.

We continued with a gift for dummy throwers/placers but we still seem to be seeing similar faces volunteering year after year. I'd like to thank those who did give up their time to ensure the tests went ahead but we could do with more helpers in this respect.

I see other clubs are taking up similar thank you's for their helpers which is good but I personally feel these gifts need to be kept in perspective. We should always remember that with such large memberships, and in our case, increasing attendances at tests year on year - we should not struggle for member helpers. We again had record attendances at all our working tests.

We rarely struggle for judges as are known as a welcoming club. We gave appreciation to our judges through refreshments, gifts, verbal thanks and letters for giving up their time to attend. The feedback from the judges was positive towards the clubs efforts throughout.

The Club was well represented at the Chatsworth Club Team Retriever Event. Lee Hartis picks this team and having gained automatic qualification each year since 2011; we were even more close to winning this year – as the team of Russel Hodgen, Andy Latham and Lee Hartis finished only 1 point behind the winners. Well done to them all as we again gained automatic qualification for 2018.

I would like to thank all the people who supported the club's events, (members and none members) and the club's working committee for their help. My personal thanks to Irene Davison, Joanne Wilson, Olive Maddison for being such great help at the tests with special thanks to Geordie Atkinson who could be found trying to part people and their cash for our raffles each time. He did a great job and contributed massively towards the profits made by the working tests. I'd also like to thank our Sponsors, Skinners Dog foods and Gundog Gear.

Overall the test events were healthy financially and well attended and I am sure that Jeff Smart will do a great job of taking the reins for the 2018 season. Thanks. “

"Hello and welcome

Another year has passed and I'm pleased to report 2017 has been just as busy, however we have a great committee who are always keen to help. We also have many helpers who assist on the day.

The year starts with the annual eye test this is always very well attended - our vet Mr Stuart Ellis does a fantastic job to see all the dogs on the day. We are grateful to him for continuing to attend this event as it very important to the club to host eye testing for the continued health of our breed.

We move on to the February Open show held in Bowburn Community centre. Our judge was Jenny Dobson [Lakemeadow]. Jenny had a great entry with some very nice dogs to go over. She had a wonderful day and expressed what a warm and welcoming club we were.

The day was made all the more special by the presence of Joyce and Lesley Brabban long standing members and now honorary life members. The club surprised them with a cake and some flowers as recognition of the fantastic contribution to Labradors they have made over the years. It was so nice they came that day with their son and grandchild who were able to share in celebrations.

The next event in the show calendar was the championship show held at Kirkley Hall Ponteland, and as usual this show was well attended. Our judges were Isobel Keys judging dogs and Anne Britton judging bitches.

The show went very well despite some very difficult circumstances with the hall. On the day we all worked hard and helped with the smooth running of the show. However we did encounter a few problems, this was brought to our attention after the show and discussed at length in a meeting. As a result we feel Kirkley has dropped in standards and have now booked a new venue for our 2018 championship show. The new venue will be Haltwhistle swimming and leisure Centre, Northumberland.

Despite the problems encountered both judges expressed what a great day they'd had they thanked the club and committee for our hospitality in their show reports.

I would just like to say thank you to everyone for a very successful year. The time has now come for me to stand down as show secretary. I have enjoyed my role as secretary for the past six years and learned such a lot.

I will continue on the committee and will give my support to whoever would like to take on this role.

Kay"

“Unfortunately the Breed Council AGM had not taken place yet in 2018 (held in 2017 6th April and reported on in 2017 AGM) and therefore could not be reported on as yet. Feedback to General committee would follow once the meeting had taken place (12th April 2018).

Breed Health Sub-Committee (BHSC) again had no meeting on which to report however some items were brought to the attention of AGM.

The expenses incurred on attending these Breed meetings comes from the subscription paid by all the Breed Clubs. This is then divided between the clubs to cover travel expenses incurred in attending. In 2017 Joanne McDonald had been elected to accompany Lynda to the meetings.

Some points of interest were passed to AGM:

Information on Pet insurance for breeders was relayed to the AGM e.g. if you declare to insurance companies that a ‘breeders’ pup had been treated for say an upset tummy shortly after birth by the breeder – when homed with new ‘owners’, they were sometimes being told this condition would not be covered further by insurance when taking out a new policy for their pup in the owner’s name.

The topic of Hereditary Cataracts had not been fully reported back on as yet.

As one of the BHSC chosen Co-ordinators with the Kennel Club, Lynda reported on the large 23 page document she had worked on for presentation with other BHSC coordinators to the KC on the Dilute Gene (Colour Not Recognised) issue, providing proof and reasons why the Kennel club should follow other countries such as Holland and not register these dogs as ‘Labradors’ ‘Colour Not Recognised’. Unfortunately Lynda felt the meeting and all the work beforehand had been a waste of time as it seemed apparent the KC was not bothered about sorting this issue and would carry on registering them as Labradors. This was very frustrating but Lynda felt nothing further would be done on this issue by the KC.

Lynda advised that if elected to Breed Council Representative tonight by AGM, she intended to see out her term of office (which was 3 years in total) by being the Club’s representative for another year. BHSC rep was voted by the Kennel Club and Lynda had been voted on until 2021. General Committee would need to discuss about her replacement.

Field Trial Liaison Representative Report – Samantha Whyte

Appendix 5

(Delivered in Samantha's absence by Irene Davison)

"Dear N&D Committee & Members.

Unfortunately this year I have no report, as such, to submit.

This is because after a Field Trial Liaison Council Meeting, the last meeting being back in June 2017, we wait to hear which of our recommendations the Field Trial Committee has agreed.

We are notified via a document called "Results of Recommendation". After chasing up the Kennel Club office several times, months later there is still no "Results of Recommendation" so I cannot confirm what has or has not be implemented/recommended.

On the up side my report will be twice as long next year, ha ha.

Please accept my apologies for not attending but it is a long way to come to say nothing. As always if you need or want to discuss any issues please get in touch.

Kind regards

Samantha Samantha Whyte Field Trial Liaison Council Representative for N&D Labrador Retriever Club & Lincolnshire Gundog Society. 07564624563 samantha_jim21@yahoo.co.uk"

Labrador Welfare Report from Su and June Roberts

(Delivered by Irene Davison)

Appendix 6

“Many thanks for the AGM documents Irene. Please give our apologies as we shall be unable to attend.

We have had quite a few dogs coming through from the North East and a few finding new homes as well. We do get a number that tell us that N&D have recommended them to contact us so thanks go to all who have done this for us.

Your support is always very welcome. We are pleased that you feel able to do this for us.

The number of dogs coming through these days is considerably less than in the 1990's when we regularly touched 100 to 150 a year. Now we average about 75 to 80 per year. Hardly any strays these days which is good news

Hope the meeting goes well and the weather is kind to you.

Kind regards

June and Su Roberts”

***** Anne Beckley our Treasurer further reported that during 2017 we had managed to donate £178.50 to Lab Welfare which had helped them greatly, especially over the Xmas period as they had a lot of elderly dogs in their care.***

Irene also added that 2018 had started well with a £5 per month repeat standing order from one member. This was greatly appreciated.