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NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB

DRAFT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES REPORTING ON 2022

Held at Bowburn Community Centre 17th May 2023, 6.30pm

Those Present:

I Davison, A Beckley, L Hartis, C Mitchell, B Davison, F Smith, M Jackson, A-M Coates, L Lintern, Wm. Lambell, W Wilson, I Palmer, J Smart and S Ellison.

Apologies received and accepted from: L Heron, L Thompson, M Mowatt, K. Jenkins, G Atkinson, M Olds, A Johnson, T Mullett, N Bujnoch, V Visser, M Johnson and F. Maclean

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair this evening, Anne Beckley (Treasurer) chaired the meeting.

- 1 Draft Minutes of previous AGM for approval and adoption.
Copies of 2022 draft minutes had been available on the Club website from May 2022 and were further available at the meeting. Acceptance proposed: I. Palmer. Seconded: J. Smart
2022 Draft Minutes were approved and adopted unanimously.
- 2 Matters arising from the Minutes. None
- 3 Chairperson's Address: Lynda Heron

To provide more information for members prior to the AGM, we sent out officer/representatives reports with the AGM mailing in April 2023 to allow members to digest the Club information and ask any questions at the AGM. The Chair's report was circulated with those reports. No questions were forthcoming but copies of the reports will be further added to these draft minutes for information.

4. Treasurers Report: Anne Beckley, Hon. Treasurer **See Appendix 1**

Anne Beckley's report and balance sheet had been provided to members prior to the AGM and no queries or questions were forthcoming. Anne advised the meeting that we were very grateful to our new accountant Mr C Pidgeon for agreeing to check the accounts, which he found were well documented. General discussion took place on the stable financial position of the club and that we do not want to make money from our membership and are happy that the events are on the whole, self-financing. B Davison asked why membership seemed to be down during 2020/2021. A Beckley explained that this was purely down to the covid situation when very few events were possible but advised membership had almost now returned to the pre-covid levels.

5. Secretary's Report: Irene Davison, Hon. Secretary **See Appendix 2**

Irene Davison explained that as in past reports, the administration of the Club was well maintained and there were no problems to raise at AGM. Irene also wished AGM to note that after our centenary year, she was giving notice that she would be looking to hand over the Secretary reins to a new person and retire from the role.

6. Field Trial Secretary's Report: Lee Hartis, F.T. Secretary **See Appendix 3**

No questions had been received or were made in relation to the Field Trials report and Lee Hartis proceeded to give AGM a rundown of trials scheduled this year.

7. Working Test Secretary's Report: I Davison & J Smart **See Appendix 4**

With no permanent Working Test secretary as with the year prior, Jeff Smart had run the test days and Irene Davison had dealt with all entries, paperwork and purchase of gifts and equipment and sourced sponsorship. Anna Coates had also sourced and provided judge lunches for the test season. Fellow committee members had made themselves available for judging and assisting at events.

8. Show Secretary's Report: Cheryl Mitchell, Show Secretary **See Appendix 5**

With Cheryl's report being circulated earlier and no questions being put forward as a result, Cheryl proceeded to inform AGM of this year's events and advised AGM that from 2024 our Championship Shows would be moved from October to February to avoid clashes with other clubs and maximise attendance. The Open shows would be moved to October.

9. Club Representative Annual Reports for 2022

- a) Breed Council/Breed Health – Lynda Heron **This would follow as the Breed Council minutes were awaited**
- b) F T Liaison Representative's Report: Samantha Whyte **See Appendix 6.**
- c) Breed Education Co-Ordinator update **Not available**

10. Educational/Programme

A Club bursary of £300 is available annually to provide an educational event for members and non-members. This is on a rotational basis aiming to satisfy work/show and pet interests. In 2022 there had been insufficient time to arrange a Show Breed Education event. General Committee had decided due to the extensive Centenary organisation for 2023 no additional event would be held in 2023. Part of the Centenary programme was a talk by Mr Richard Edwards who is delivering a talk on the Foundation Kennels of Northumberland, Durham and the Borders. This would take place on Friday 16th June.

11. Honoraria

General Committee had reviewed the honorarium from the previous year and proposed the levels should remain the same for 2022. **This was agreed unanimously by the AGM.**

12. Election of Officers and positions within the Club

All nominations received had been correctly proposed and seconded and **were accepted unanimously.**

13. Election of Committees, Breed Council, Breed Health, Breed Education and Field Trial Liaison representatives

The Breed Education Representative role was still vacant. Other nominations as provided in the 2023 mailing to members were completed correctly as were the committee member nominations. These were proposed for acceptance and **voted upon showing unanimous acceptance by AGM.**

14. Election of Auditors

Anne Beckley explained that Mr Chris Pidgeon had very kindly offered to audit the accounts for an initial three years and requested AGM to agree to his re-election, I Davison seconded. **This was unanimously agreed.**

15. Rules and Regulations Review – Changes had been requested and agreed by the Kennel Club to alter our Rules and Regulations to provide more clarity to our Membership Application process.

This had been outlined in the AGM mailing sent to members and following discussion on the process A Beckley proposed and I Davison seconded. Members were requested to approve these alterations which would come into effect in 2024. Therefore from 2024 there would be one intake of membership in March. **The proposal was unanimously agreed**

Rule 4:- Name and Objects:-

- a. *Applications for membership should be submitted on the membership application form supported by a proposer and seconder.*
- b. *Applications are considered by the committee at its February/March meeting.*
- c. *Notification of acceptance / rejection will be issued by the membership secretary and payment [in the case of acceptance] required within 7 days. All membership privileges commence upon receipt of payment.*
- d. *Annual subscriptions are due on 1 January. If unpaid at 31 March, membership will automatically lapse and the member is removed from the register. To re-join, a re-application must be made and processed in accordance with a-c above."*

16. Proposals by members

No proposals, questions or queries had been received by members by the required date but discussion took place at the AGM with regard the number of attendees to AGM to ensure the meeting was quorate. **Due to falling committee member numbers and lack of attendees at AGM's the meeting asked for the quorum to be reduced from 14 to 10.** This would mean a change to our rules which would be circulated to members and checked with the Kennel Club before it could come into effect.

17. Any Other Business

A Beckley advised the meeting of the charitable donation we like to provide each year and I Davison proposed that the amount be increased from £100 to £150 in view of inflation and rapidly increasing costs across the board. This was seconded by L Hartis and had been provisionally agreed by General Committee at their last meeting. AGM was asked to consider the increase which this year was proposed to go to Labrador Welfare who work hard to re-home Labradors from the North East. A report is received annually from Labrador Welfare showing where their help has been provided in our area. **AGM agreed unanimously to increase the donation to £150.00.**

No other items were proposed for consideration and Anne Beckley thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

CHAIRPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT – LYNDA HERON - AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED

Thank you for electing me once again as your Chairperson in 2022. Our AGM this year will take on a different format and the reports included in this mailing will be tabled to vote on for acceptance by those present at the AGM.

Officers and Committee will take any questions or plaudits from the floor but will not be repeating reports already submitted. Therefore, it is important that Members read the reports prior to the meeting.

Thanks as always, go to the Officers and Committees for all they do. It is a credit to their determination and energy that so many events went ahead. The feedback from all events was that members were grateful for what was achieved during the 2022.

One of our Emblehope Field Trial's was unfortunately cancelled due to the death, the day before, of our most senior club member; the Late Queen Elizabeth II. Lee had to hastily contact all competitors with help from our judges who were already checked in at their Hotel.

After many years involvement with Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever Club and on reflection, I am drawn to the conclusion that the strength of the Club is in excellent officers and strong committees who are prepared to put the required work in to make this club what it is.

Members of course are at the centre of any Club but once again I feel duty bound to say that perhaps some who have benefited from membership over many years should consider if it's time to put something back?

Once again I look back to when I first became involved in the Club there were invariably more people standing for positions on committees than there were spaces. Indeed, this was true of most Clubs around the country and now like many other Clubs we find ourselves with ageing committees, many of whom have been around for 30 or 40 years. We need members to join us and drive things forward with energy, enthusiasm and long-term commitment.

We are enormously grateful to our Field Trial and Working Test hosts who generously allow us access to their wonderful grounds. Thanks also to our sponsors Skinners who generously support all our Working Tests and Field Trials which is truly appreciated by the members and participants. In 2022 we again received much appreciated sponsorship for our tests from Gundog Gear and Sporting Saint for our field trials. Sincere thanks to our Show sponsors, C.S.J. who have given so generously to our Championship and Open Shows. We are greatly appreciative of all our sponsors.

I do hope you will be able to join us at the stunning Ford and Etal Estate in June for two Championship shows and a day of working tests.

Lynda Heron,
Chairperson

So the start of 2022 saw us wondering how the Covid omicron variant would affect our events that usually happen in February and also searching for a new accountant to oversee our finances. Thankfully a timely application for membership put us in contact with Chris Pidgeon who has kindly agreed to take on the position of accountant to the Club for 3 years.

My report this year is slightly different due to the fact Chris has changed how we report the finances back to you. The accounts now demonstrate the income and expense directly by the club rather than the more fancy accrual system previously used and should be easier for everyone to understand.

The eye test had to change venues and despite the torrential rain our Chairman Lynda successfully organised and ran the event single handed – thanks Lynda as my job became an easy one.

Our Open Show was postponed to later in the year and held outdoors in conjunction with North Riding Gundog. Extra costs were incurred through the necessary purchases of a gazebo and other equipment plus a last minute change of judge.

On the Working side it was a successful year and, but for the unfortunate cancellation of a Field Trial due to our late Queen's demise, the figures would have probably shown a small profit.

The figures for our Championship show are slightly distorted by the inclusion of prepayments for Kennel Club Licences and an unpaid invoice from the previous year which hadn't been forwarded to me.

You may also note we have the inclusion of a Centenary account to which a deposit has already been charged.

So what appears to be a loss overall mustn't be construed as the Club is in trouble as they are balanced by the prepayments for next year and an unpaid invoice.

I am grateful to Chris Pidgeon for his kind words about my record keeping and would ask that the Accounts for 2022 are approved. I will endeavour to answer any questions you may have.

Anne Beckley

I would like to thank the officers and committee members for their valiant efforts in 2022, who, despite being small in number, work diligently keeping events running and the mechanisms of the club working well.

We are always looking for enthusiastic, proactive committee members who will help out at events and bring new ideas. If anyone is interested in becoming more involved in the show or working side and you are committed to assisting at events, we would love to hear from you.

I continue to organise the general Club administration, including completing our Annual Returns and other necessary paperwork, on time and in good order, for the Kennel Club. I maintain the Club's central records allowing officers to access password protected Club paperwork that they need to complete their roles. Members can rest assured, that we do our utmost to keep your data secure.

With email being our main method of contact; and by far the most popular with members, a large amount of my time is spent monitoring and answering/acting on Club emails, considering the thousands we receive each year. We do still post out information to those that prefer.

Our Facebook page is popular and visited regularly. This is where we post events and updates as well as on our website. I hope my Christmas newsletter also helps to keep you informed of what we provide members throughout the year.

Outside the prescribed duties of Club Secretary, I also provide admin support to our working and show secretaries or anyone requiring assistance.

2022 saw the Club committees provide an eye testing clinic, 4 working tests, 3 field trials and 2 shows; all of which were very well attended.

Last year our event sponsors (**Skinner's, CSJ, Gundog Gear, Twice Brewed Twine and Sporting Saint**) offered their generous support for our events, as did our working event landowners, our show and working judges and of course our stewards, helpers and competitors – who all contribute to the success of Club events.

As website administrator; I undertake to keep our website as up to date as possible. We have a high volume of visitors viewing the website; and there's also a very large portion of our memberships, working test and field trial entries paid via the Club website.

Please remember, it is your responsibility to ensure membership subs are paid on time each year. If your membership is not paid up fully by the end of March; you will not receive the benefits afforded to fully paid-up members.

It's been another busy year and I have done my best to fulfil the roles asked of me on behalf of the membership.

I'd like to thank my hubby Brian for his unwavering support and hands on efforts to help me during the year. Also thanks to Lynda Heron as Chair for her vast Labrador knowledge and Anne Beckley our Treasurer/membership secretary for providing me with very speedy answers to any membership queries and for keeping the accounts in such commendable order. We work very well together.

Thanks to Linda Thompson (Vice Chair) for her support for all her time spent on the puppy register and to Cheryl Mitchell, Lee Hartis and Jeff Smart for giving up their time which enabled our events to go ahead. Also my sincere appreciation to Anna Coates for dealing with the working test catering and thanks to all our committee members for their input into making so many events available to the wider membership.

Together we all work very hard to provide members with the opportunities to enjoy their spare time with their dogs; despite this taking up a lot of our own. We have a great bunch of volunteers at N & D – long may it continue.

Irene Davison

Irene Davison
Honorary Secretary

“2022 was slightly troublesome trial season due to some unexpected events which could not be predicted. Two of our grounds (Wemmergill Estate and Eggleston Fell) were unavailable due to the carryover of the low grouse counts in 2021 and the onset of avian flu.

However we were very grateful to be given the opportunity to return to Bolton Abbey for our two day stake in August, courtesy of The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. This proved an exceptional trial, with some great dogs in good form with David Latham winning the trial handling F.T.Ch. Meadowlark Big Rock Fendawood for owner Mr T.D. Friedkin. The hospitality provided by our hosts was amazing and we are very grateful for the opportunity of holding our event on such a prestigious ground.

We were exceptionally appreciative for the use of the Kennel Club's Emblehope and Burngrange estate for our planned novice trials. The estate provides varied and challenging terrain. The expertise and knowledge of Head keeper Raymond Holt, is impeccable and we cannot thank him enough for his unwavering support for our events (along with his wife Anne).

Unfortunately with the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth on the 8th September our novice trial for the 9th was cancelled by the Kennel Club which meant many urgent phone calls the evening before the trial by myself and our judges to all competitors.

Our novice trial for the 10th September went ahead but we unfortunately did not have a winner.

Our final trial was a 14 dog novice 5th November, again at Emblehope and Burngrange estate which saw Niels Henrik Hansen win with Millcottage Pigeon of Labdom.

I cannot thank our judges enough for giving up their time to enable our members to run their dogs.

Our trial entries are always oversubscribed which I hope is testament to the Club and also the grounds we use.

I cannot thank enough the organisation, professionalism and courtesy of Raymond Holt the Gamekeeper, who, with his wife Anne are such a valuable asset to the estate. The diversity of land is exceptional, so much so, that we will be returning in 2023 for our trials.

Thank you to those people that came to help out - with my very special thanks to Jeff Smart and his wife Julie for their invaluable support and attendance at all our trials. Without their multi-tasking, we would struggle on the days.

We are very grateful to our field trial sponsors Skinners, for their continued support for N & D. They do so much for the gundog world and we will never take them for granted. In 2022 Sporting Saint provided vouchers and goody bags for all our winners which was greatly appreciated.

Organising the field trials takes an awful lot of time but by taking on the Field Trial Secretary role, it is my way of saying 'thank you' to the local Club that has allowed me to enjoy trialling for many years. Only by people volunteering for these roles can our sport continue, and our Club advance.

Thank you

Lee Hartis
Field Trial Secretary

In the absence of a full Working Test Secretary, committee member, Jeff Smart kindly stood up and ran the test days but due to storage limitations and work commitments, Jeff couldn't store large equipment nor have the time to organise sponsorship, gifts and entries.

The wider committee managed to work the role between them with Anna Coates arranging the judges catering, which was invaluable. Jeff's wife Julie was also a massive help in ensuring the days ran smoothly.

Four working tests were planned and organised. All had massive amounts of entries which made the committee being led towards giving thought in future of possibly limiting running card numbers.

Massive thanks go to our landowners; without whom, we would not have events. Also thanks to our test sponsors, Skinners Pet Foods, Twice Brewed Twines and Gundog Gear who were so generous.

We can't thank our judges enough for giving up their time. We use a four judge system and thankfully we managed to secure good judges for all tests.

It was a great pleasure in 2022, that the amount of helpers for dummy throwing and placing were outstanding. With so many offers of help we even had to turn people down! It is hoped this will continue to enable our working tests to be put on without alteration due to lack of help.

If you're just starting out and want to see how the working tests proceed, there is no better way of learning than helping. You see the dogs work up close and also how the handlers deal with different situations. You also get an insight into what judges are looking for (or not!)

If you're a seasoned trialler, think of giving back some time and effort to the clubs that enabled you to progress. We need to protect these sports as much as possible and this can only be done with helpers as committee members can only do so much.

This past year has been a busy and at times challenging year. I would firstly like to take the opportunity to say thank you to our show committee without whom we would not be able to run our shows. Secondly, I would like to thank our chairperson Lynda Heron for all her help with the shows; it is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank the general committee members who attend our shows and help with the clearing away at the end of a long day.

I would also like to say welcome back to the show committee Denise Bratton, Linda Thompson, and Louise Lintern. It has been a tremendous help having the extra help of these three ladies at our events.

We held three events in 2022/2023 we held two open shows and one championship show. Unfortunately, we have not done a show education day but will look to doing one soon.

May 2022 open show

The 2022 open show was rescheduled from February 2022. The open show had a change of venue, from an inside venue to an outside venue at North Riding Gundog.

Unfortunately, due to illness Morag Jarvis had to withdraw from her judging appointment. We were incredibly grateful to Lorna Ungoed-Thomas (Murlaggen) for stepping in and judging our show at late notice. The day itself was challenging due to the wind and rain however, our judge, steward and exhibitors coped well, and the show went ahead as planned. The entry was 57 dogs making 76 entries.

The results were as follows.

BEST IN SHOW: BRIGBURN SHERWOOD

RESERVE BEST IN SHOW: BURNTHORN MISTY

BEST OPPOSITE SEX: BURNTHORN MISTY

BEST PUPPY IN SHOW: SHAYMILONEY SIDE SHOW BOB

RESERVE BEST PUPPY IN SHOW: RHYTHM LACEY

BEST VETERAN IN SHOW: AFINMORE ARDMORE

October 2022 championship show.

Our October championship show was held at Haltwhistle leisure centre. Haltwhistle is such a lovely venue, the staff go out of their way to help us put on our dog show each year. Our Judges were, Dogs; Noelene Dodd (Eneleon) Bitches Mary McCulloch (Frewlings) the entry was 124 dogs making 148 entries. I would like to thank our judges and stewards for ensuring our day passed smoothly with two very well-run rings. We had some lovely comments back from our exhibitors who enjoy this venue and our show.

BEST IN SHOW: CARRIEGAME MOONSHINE
RESERVE BEST IN SHOW: DOLWEN ANNASTASIA
BEST OPPOSITE SEX: DOLWEN ANNASTASIA
BEST PUPPY IN SHOW: BALLADOOLE LUCKY DIP
RESERVE BEST PUPPY IN SHOW: BRIGBURN PERIGRINE
BEST VETERAN IN SHOW: SH CH PONIEL REASON TO BELIEVE AT BRUADARACH RESERVE
BEST VETERAN IN SHOW: WESTERULSTON NOLA

February 2023 Open Show

Our February Open show was judged by David Alcorn (Rutilus) with an entry of 85 dogs making 106 entries. The ring ran smoothly with thanks to our, judge and steward. The show was inspected by the Kennel club; we were delighted with the report from the kennel club official. The official described it as a “Very well-run show, with lots of correct information and lovely atmosphere”

I would like to personally thank everyone on our show committee and our chairperson, for all their hard work in making this show a success. The show had a lovely atmosphere and was very well attended. The comments on social media after the show were all very complementary.

BEST IN SHOW: AM GCHG CH TAMPA BAY & EAGLE POND'S KISSES SWEETER THAN WINE
RESERVE BEST IN SHOW: WYNFAUL NEW YEARS EVE
BEST OPPOSITE SEX: CH. WYNFAUL THE WIZARD
BEST PUPPY IN SHOW: WYNFAUL CARBON COPY AT BESKERBY
RESERVE BEST PUPPY IN SHOW: WYNFAUL REPRINT
BEST VETERAN IN SHOW: CH. WYNFAUL THE WIZARD

Future events 2023-2024

The centenary celebrations will take place in June with our double championship show weekend. We are lucky to have been given the opportunity to host the Joint Clubs Championship show on Friday 16th June 2023. The centenary show will take place on Sunday the 18th of June 2023. Both events will take place at Ford and Etal estate, at Etal village walled garden.

Our championship show 2024 date has been changed to February 18th, 2024, we have done this due to too many general championship shows being scheduled in October. We will be looking to reschedule our open show to later in the year.

Cheryl Mitchell
Show Secretary

More information will follow once we have the Breed Council minutes of the recent meeting in April 2023.

Dear All, here is my annual Field Trial Liaison Council (FTLC) report.

The N&D Labrador Retriever Club did not have any items on the 2022 FTLC agenda however the Council did discuss various matters, several were passed onto the Field Trial Committee (FTC). The outcome of those discussions by the FTC (Results of Recommendations) are in a nutshell below.

1. Handlers with more than one dog - The Working Party to give a report and recommendations to the Field Trial Committee as soon as possible after the season.

2. Eye wipes - Guidance issued in the Summer 2022 FT Newsletter <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/5346/field-trial-newsletter-summer-2022.pdf>

3. Experience required for judges - Societies have a responsibility not to invite non-Panel judges to officiate where there was any concern at a lack of suitable knowledge or experience. The KC's Codes of Best Practice for field trial competitors for all sub-groups, set out a number of 'target' activities, including assisting at trials.
Retrievers - <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/about-us/about-the-kennel-club/the-kennelclub-codes/code-of-best-practice-for-retriever-field-trial-competitors/>
Spaniels - <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/about-us/about-the-kennel-club/the-kennelclub-codes/code-of-best-practice-for-spaniel-field-trial-competitors/>

4. Publication of regulation clarification and guidance - Previous issues of FT Newsletters to be uploaded and stored on the KC's website giving easy access to everyone looking for regulation clarification and guidance.

5. Substitute dogs - Accepting substitute dogs is at the discretion of societies depending on their own constitution. Notice of any restrictions or conditions attached to the stakes, including arrangements for the substitution of dogs, must be stated within a schedule. The FTC checked and were assured that the online system FTMS had a facility in place for substitute dogs, and that a similar facility was being developed in relation to Fosse Data.

6. Odds & Evens - Referred back to the FT Judges Sub-Group.

7. Wrong retrieves - Specific to Retrievers, problem to be addressed via judges training.

8. Use of a judge's stick - Judges can no longer place a stick in the ground as a marker, new regulation J(A)4.e came into effect on 2/2/2023. See page 9 of the Winter 2022 FT Newsletter, link below.

Also in the Winter 2022 Newsletter (<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/5522/fieldtrial-newsletter-winter-2022.pdf>) information about:-

*Competing under partners/spouses,
Reminder to judges on the procedure for judging the hunting ability of a Spaniel,
Biosecurity for field trial and working gundog events,
Roles and responsibilities at field trials,
Not currently active field trial judges.*

The 2023 J Regulations Booklet has been published and can be find online here, <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/3465/field-trial-j-regulations.pdf>

This ends my report for 2022/2023.

Kind regards

Samantha Whyte, Field Trial Liaison Council Representative