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NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Held 10th April 2019, 7pm at Bowburn Community Centre

Those Present:

A.J. Beckley, G. Atkinson, N. Bujnoch, L. Thompson, L. Heron, D. Bratton, K. Jenkins, S. McDermott, L. Hartis, W. Wilson, M. Mowatt, J. Smart, S. Ludwig, J. Lees, I. Palmer, F. Maclean, L. Lintern, K. Leith-Ross, J. McDonald, M. Olds, F. Smith, C. Mitchell and S. McDonald.

- 1 Apologies received and accepted from: P. Williams, S and J Roberts, S. Shankar, L. McDougal, J. Wilson, A-M Coates, S. Whyte, T. Mullett, D. Fisher, I. Davison and S. Ellison
- 2 Minutes of previous AGM for approval and adoption.
Copies of 2018 draft minutes had been available on the website from May 2018 and were available at the meeting. Acceptance proposed: L. Heron, Seconded: K. Jenkins
2018 Minutes were approved and adopted unanimously.
- 3 Matters arising from the Minutes
S. McDermott advised there had been an issue following the honorarium discussion at the 2018 meeting and following a General meeting review, an apology letter was sent to F. McLean.
- 4 Chairperson's Address: Steven McDermott, Chair
"Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever Club had another good year in 2018 and I am sure all the committee members are very proud of what is being achieved. This can only happen if you have strong committees'; members who are prepared to put the required work in to make the club progressive and current.

The Officers and committees work hard on behalf of the members and every year we try to organise events for you which are above and beyond the principal ones. 2018 was the turn of the Show side to provide an additional educational event, however sadly nothing was organised. The club's new Show Secretary Denise Bratton, has since organised an event on Canine First Aid which was fully subscribed in hours. Thanks to Denise for organising this and all those who help on the day.

The working side is the focus for the educational event this year and a KC Field Trial seminar has been organised for May with our presenter Heather Bradley. The seminar includes the J Regs seminar exam – but this is not compulsory. This event was very well attended in 2016, there are still places available if any members are interested.

I hope that the £300 per year bursary continues to add to the benefits of being a member of this club, (if members have any ideas for future Educational events please forward your request to the club). Irene starts her 5th year in the role of Honorary Secretary combined with website designer/manager.

I am sure all Club/ Committee members will agree, Irene completes her role to the highest standard and is there to support committee secretaries within their roles throughout the year, Irene's dedication is second to none.

Anne our Treasurer has in her 3rd year, presented us with the high level of accounts in great time. Anne has adopted new systems working in line with the club's accountant. Anne has also taken over the role of Membership Secretary in 2018 and is doing a great job and I think for the first time in a while the clubs membership list is in order.

Linda Thompson is our new Vice Chair and I hope Linda has enjoyed the last year, and we hope has many years to come within the role. Linda also looks after the Puppy Register

In 2018 we welcomed a few new Committee members; and we are grateful to everyone who has stepped up to help the Club.

YEAR 2018

The Clubs year started with the Annual Eye Test; we had 60+ dogs attending, the day ran smoothly, and was supported by the clubs committee members throughout the day.

Show Committee. This was quickly followed by the February Open Show which was successful, and our championship show in October held at Haltwhistle community centre which had a very good entry.

Working committee again facilitated five working tests organised by working test Sec Mr Jeff Smart, these were very well attended. The club are grateful to all judges and dummy throwers who gave up their valuable time to ensure the events were successful.

The club had two team events, the annual Interclub and the Chatsworth team event, the club would like to thank all involved within these events.

The club facilitated four Field trials organised by field trial sec Mr Lee Hartis, two novice trials, one all age trial and one two day open. Unfortunately our Novice Trial at Wemmergill was cancelled due to low grouse numbers. The two-day stake at Whitfield had mixed reviews for alternative reasons and Lee will be looking at a change in venue for 2019. Thanks to our judges, game carriers, dog stewards and teams of guns for their valuable time and support enabling the trials to succeed.

As a Club we are very lucky to have exceptionally generous hosts for our Tests and Trials and we are very appreciative to have access to such wonderful grounds; as without their generosity it would be very difficult to run as many events as we do.

A huge thank you from the club and members to everyone who arranged the events both show and working, and I am sure those who took part enjoyed them. Details of our events together with photographs, are available on our website. www.ndlabclub.co.uk

General:

The club and I cannot thank enough, the hard-working Committee members and the non-committee members who add so much to this Club for the benefit of the whole membership.

The club is enormously grateful to our working event hosts, we thank also our sponsors Skinners who generously support all our Working Tests and Field Trials which is truly valued by the members and participants. In 2018 we again received much appreciated sponsorship for our working tests from Gundog Gear.

The club gives thanks to our Show sponsors, Royal Canin and James Well-beloved who have given so generously to our Championship and Open Shows. We are greatly appreciative of all our sponsors.

In 2019 both our shows are being sponsored by CSJ and we are enormously grateful for their support.

The club gives thanks to accountant Paul Glahome for completing the clubs annual accounts.

In my first year as Chair I have had a few issues to deal with, but I look to the future with confidence and optimism, knowing we have the basis of a strong team who have my respect and admiration for their dedication and hard work to keep Northumberland and Durham Labrador Club both progressive and current. I wish you all a good year with your dogs. Kind regards, Steve.

Steven McDermott: Chairman

5. Treasurer Report: Anne Beckley, Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary

“Once again I stand before you to present the Club’s Accounts for the year from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018. The Accounts have again, been examined by Mr Paul Glaholm F.C.P.A and there are copies available for your perusal tonight.

For various reasons this has been a ‘busy’ year with regards to the Accounts. For those who are unaware, whilst the Accounts are maintained throughout the financial year January is the time to double check everything has been accounted for accurately and matched to the appropriate paper trail, thus creating this large file. At the same time Club business has to be attended to.

In January, following permission from the General Committee, the Club researched and purchased a new laptop, with appropriate programs, so all Club matters can be stored on it. Efforts are still being made to find the Club’s original laptop from years ago but we may have to admit defeat.

January is also the time the Club’s Insurance renewal quote should come through ready for activation on the 1st February. On the 15th January said quote arrived – by email! No documents just a quote of £1253.07. Considering the previous year payment of £462.84 to say this was shock was an understatement. An assumption had been made that all our members used live ammunition but a possible reduction could be found if a series of questions were answered. So began ‘Insurance gate’. Following a series of phone calls and emails I was eventually sent an email and documents but no price! Eventually they replied with a quote of £744.76. I felt that this was still too high an increase when no claims had been made so following leads I then began to search for new providers. Sadly there are no price comparison sites and the KC were little help too. Eventually I retained the services of Cliverton for £595.04 and I can also happily report this has remained the same for this financial year. A by-product of ‘Insurance gate’ is that we have a clearly defined list of Assets and where they are stored.

So the year progressed with the Club organising events and running them efficiently. At the AGM a number of Officers retired and gifts were purchased to thank them for their services to the Club.

On behalf of the Club we made a donation to the Animal Health Trust in July for £250. This was to help in research of inherited risk factors that cause Labradors to develop mast cell tumours and a number of Clubs subsequently followed our lead.

I had hoped for a quiet period but 'Envelope gate' reared its head again! Santander changed its clearing house to Harlow from Bootle so new envelopes were required for banking cheques and surprise surprise, they didn't come to me, despite checking via phone calls that mine was the only address on the system.

So autumn approached and the Field Trials and Championship Show were upon us. We had increases in the cost of birds to contend with, people entering as members when they weren't and increases in room hire for meetings. Oh and Santander changed the envelopes again!

Having taken on the auspices of Membership Secretary following the AGM I reviewed a number of software programs to aid in this time consuming job and was given permission by the General Committee to purchase one up to the value of £250. This was duly purchased at the end of October for £234 including support for a year. This is a one off purchase so there are no annual fees. It had to be put on the back burner for a while but I am pleased to say it is now up and running.

At the beginning of December we became aware of a very distressing incident in Hungary involving the neglect of 28 Labradors, some of which had been imported from the UK. After consultation the Club donated £150 to aid in the treatment and rehabilitation of said animals by Hungarian Retriever Rescue. Their recuperation, treatments and costs have been followed carefully and fully disclosed by Hungarian Retriever Rescue. Again other Clubs followed our lead.

As is our norm, following donations from members, we donated £134 to Labrador Welfare based in Sheffield which provides care and rehoming for Labradors in the North regardless of reason. We have supported their application to be recognised by the KC and I have proposed that the Club donates a fixed annual sum on top of these donations which I hope you will consider favourably.

*And so we reach the end of the financial year. I have, perhaps, been more detailed in my report for the year but I felt it necessary as this year we made a small loss overall yet the Club maintains a healthy balance as the Accounts will confirm. The Club is not run for profit but for the benefit of its members and our beloved breed. If anyone has any questions regarding the Accounts I will endeavour to answer them." **Anne Beckley, (Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary)***

The Club's Financial Accounts were presented and proposed by Wendy Wilson, seconded by Steven McDermott as a true reflection. The accounts were then accepted by vote – unanimous.

6 Secretary's Report: Irene Davison, Hon. Secretary
In her absence Irene Davison's report was read out by Linda Thompson

"Good evening everyone. As Secretary, I look after the Club admin 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 which I started since becoming Secretary. This allows officers to access our password protected Club paperwork that they need. The records will also be a valuable tool to assist any new person undertaking a role within the Club. We now have a Club laptop (which is also password protected).

We will always continue to post information to those who request it, but the Club email is our default method of contact and by far the most popular with members. The 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 hard to ensure messages are answered promptly or passed to relevant people for their action.

Annual membership subs are due on the 1st of January each year. If your membership was not up to date by the end of March; you will not receive the benefits afforded fully paid-up members. It's your responsibility to ensure subs are paid at the correct rate and time.

The new Data Protection Regulations that came into effect last year caused quite a lot of additional work and we circulated all members on this. We have policies in place (which are also on our website) and will always make sure that your information is kept safely and not retained longer than necessary. Thank you to everyone who responded so promptly to the 'opt in' requests so we can send you future information on events, I think we have had a return of over 90%, so thank you for that. Members can rest assured that we will continue to do our utmost to keep your data secure.

In addition to the Club Secretary role, I voluntarily provide admin support for our working tests and trials, as the paperwork can be daunting with as many events as we hold. I will also provide assistance to anyone who requests my help.

Our Facebook page is visited regularly and is where we also post events/updates as well as our website.

Steve has already gone over the events we held in 2018. The additional 'educational event' is on a rotational basis between show, pet owners and working side. I'd like to thank the committee members who have taken the initiative and organised and helped at events.

In 2019 we have organised a repeat of the 'J' regs seminar with presenter Heather Bradley in May. The other event was for all – a Canine First Aid event with K999. The places sold out within hours and the day had some brilliant feedback. It did look very interesting and hands on but unfortunately I didn't get to see too much as was busy in the kitchen with Denise and Anne, getting our delegates fed and watered during the day. We will definitely consider holding another such popular event in the future.

2018 saw the inception of our Centenary Working Party. Our Club is 100 years old in 2023 (not as far off as you think!) and we have five willing volunteers who will be looking at venues and events we hope to host in our Centenary Year. More news as this develops.

We are very lucky that we rarely struggle to fill committee posts, but are always looking for eager new committee members, so if you feel you can help, please get in touch. I also offer my sincere thanks to members (and non-members) who come along to events just to help out – you are all greatly appreciated as we strive to provide members with comprehensive activities, support and a friendly atmosphere.

Our sponsors have been very generous again in 2018, as have the working event landowners, our show and working judges and helpers – who all contribute to the success of our events.

As website administrator; I endeavour to keep our website as up to date as possible with events, results, health matters and archive information. We continue to have a high volume of visitors viewing the website; hopefully due to it being informative and user friendly.

Part of updating the website includes the Puppy Register. A free service to members; and we would still like to see more member breeders making use of it. Please contact our Vice Chair, Linda Thompson who does a great job as register co-ordinator, if you want more information.

Despite the volume of work my roles demand, I try very hard to fulfil my duties to the best of my ability on your behalf and for the benefit of the Club as a whole.

Before I hand over to Lee, I'd like to say very well done to:- our Show Secretary - Denise Bratton, Working Test Secretary - Jeff Smart, Membership Secretary - Anne Beckley, Vice Chair - Linda Thompson and Chair - Steve McDermott for stepping up so promptly to fill the vacancies we had last year.

As with most officer positions, they have all had to hit the ground running, but have ALL shown they are more than capable of fulfilling the roles they were voted to do by our committees. I'd like to acknowledge Steve especially as Chair, as he has had more than his fair share of difficulties to contend with during this first year. Thankfully his 'day job' and experience, is particularly beneficial to the Chair role as he deals with matters calmly and democratically.

*The final and largest thank you goes to my hubby Brian. For taking all the messages and providing help wherever he can to help the Club. We have both had our fair share of health issues these last couple of years, but he has the patience of a saint to put up with the amount of our time I spend on Club matters. Thank you for being so supportive. **Irene Davison (Hon. Secretary)***

7. Field Trial Secretary's Report: Lee Hartis, F.T. Secretary **See Appendix 1**
8. Working Test Secretary's Report: Jeff Smart, W.T. Secretary **See Appendix 2**
9. Show Secretary's Report: Denise Bratton, Show Secretary **See Appendix 3**
10. Club Representative Annual Reports for 2018
 - a) Breed Council/Breed Health – Lynda Heron **See Appendix 4**
 - b) Field Trial Liaison Representative's Report: Samantha Whyte **See Appendix 5.**
 - c) Breed Education Co-Ordinator update – **See Appendix 6 ***

* Following c) Anne Beckley highlighted at the end of Jo's report that the undetermined term for the BEC role referred to Karl Gawthorpe (The BREED BEC). The Club BEC was not on this basis, which is why Irene Davison had asked Jo to complete a nomination form to stand again for the role if she desired to do so following her co-opt last year.

There was a short discussion which was not leading to conclusion. Steve McDermott advised the matter should be deferred to the next General Meeting.

11. Educational/Programme

Anne explained that the club bursary of £300 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 2017 this would have been for Pets (nothing organised), 2018 Show – nothing organised. However Anne had agreed to carry the 2018 bursary forward to 2019 activities to enable the show committee to organise the K999 Canine First Aid Event (referenced in Show Secretary report).

The 2019 bursary goes to the working side who have planned another J regs course for May 2019. Places are still available if anyone is interested.

12. Honoraria.

Steve McDermott advised this would be a slightly different format to previous years. Individuals would leave while their honoraria was voted upon one at a time, rather than all leaving at once which left reduced numbers behind to vote. This also meant members who were in receipt of honoraria were allowed to vote on other individuals.

Lynda Heron asked about the impact of the new membership software. Anne Beckley advised it is less time consuming although still the same volume of payments to deal with, you can move late payers to a separate area within the program and then treat as a new applicant if renewal payment not made by deadline.

The membership ex-gratia payment was then discussed and accepted by majority vote that it was to be £150 in line with the website admin payment.

Steve McDermott proposed consideration be given to increase the £25 fixed payment to officers attending events being increased by £5 to £30.

There was mixed reception to this and after discussion on the cost of diesel, implications for officers attending events (i.e. if they could or would run their dog/enter a show so regardless, be incurring cost to travel). The motion was proposed for acceptance by G Atkinson and seconded however the proposal was not carried as the majority vote went against the idea to increase to £30.

13. Election of Officers and positions within the Club

All nominations received had been correctly proposed and seconded. All votes were carried by a clear majority with the Field Trial, Show and Working Test secretaries votes being unanimous agreed.

F. Maclean withdrew her nomination to stand for the post of Chairperson as she was unaware that Steve McDermott was happy to continue in the role.

The Breed Education Co-Ordinator was deferred to next general committee meeting.

Maureen Mowatt asked if there were any vacancies on General Committee and noted it would be good to be informed of any such vacancies. Kay Jenkins advised that the Club website has published detail as to current officers and members on all committees. Kay further advised that interest needed to be submitted before the AGM meeting date so at this AGM, Maureen would not be able to be put forward for any vacancy.

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

Irene had provided all admin/paperwork relating to the nominations received. All were agreed with the exception of Breed Education Coordinator which had no nominations received.

15. Election of Auditors

Anne Beckley explained that Paul Glaholm audits the Club's accounts free of charge as Anne uses a compatible accounting software package used in Paul's business. In return the Club display an advert for Paul's business on our website. Irene Davison also purchases a bottle of whisky as a goodwill gesture annually.

Sonja Ludwig asked a question on what auditors do and Anne Beckley explained this was a legal requirement to ensure good governance around the Club's financial reports.

16. Rules and Regulations Review – No changes to discuss.

17. Proposals by members

Anne Beckley wished to propose that an annual donation for Labrador Welfare be made of £100. There was an amendment to that proposal put forward by Lynda Heron to make this a standing agenda item for future years. A second amendment was put forward by Jo McDonald to open up to vote who would receive the donation. Irene Davison had noted she would go against this amendment and still like the proposal to be for Labrador Welfare while they were an operating charity. After discussion and following a vote, it was agreed unanimously for 2019 that £100 would go to Labrador Welfare and that this would become a standing agenda item in future for AGM.

18. Any Other Business

Maureen Mowatt queried if there were any club guidelines around General committee members who were not on a sub-committee, as to what their obligations were to attend and help at events organised by the sub-committees.

Lynda Heron explained that the General committee was there to facilitate the running of the Club and the sub committees are subordinate to that in their nature. The lower level planning and organising sitting with the sub-committee members and the overall running of the Club; rules and regulations, more complex matters unresolved at sub-committee would be dealt with by general committee. There is no specific obligation on general committee members who are not active at sub-committee level, to attend events – however in reality, those people generally do or have previously been active on a sub-committee.

“In 2018 we had a very good support from members with excellent numbers of entries to our four field trials.

Unfortunately our Novice trial at Wemmergill was cancelled due to low grouse numbers but the Estate have already agreed a date for 2019 when hopefully we will be back again.

The novice at Ford and Etal Estate, our two day open qualifier at Whitfield and the All Aged trial at Eggleston Fell all went ahead.

The trials had good judges and worthy winners. The constant help at every trial from Jeff Smart, his wife Julie and Michelle Olds (one of our new committee members) ensured every trial had at least some valuable help, and we are also thankful to the other members who attended when they could. It wasn't ideal numbers but we got by.

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 people can learn by seeing the judging and competitors up close.

Unfortunately this year we had increased costs in accommodation and birds and we were guns short at the two day trial which meant our income suffered.

I try hard to keep costs down where possible, but the trials did make quite a loss this year which was disappointing. Luckily the working tests made excellent profit.

In January this year, the committee made the decision to hold a further novice trial in 2019 at Emblehope, which will mean we could have 5 trials per year, but on the years when Wemmergill or another trial may be cancelled, we can still offer our 4 trials.

We are still waiting for finalisation of a couple of dates for the 2019 trials as the landowners have to discuss planning with their keeping staff; but I am sure these will be sorted soon.

Our landowners and their agents, are never taken for granted - all receive a letter of sincere thanks and a gift, as do their game keepers. Their generous support means we are able to offer varied grounds for our events. We are also very grateful to our working event sponsors Skinners and Gundog Gear for their continued support.

Organising the Club events takes a lot of effort AND TIME for the people concerned. We aren't without our faults, but by taking on these roles when others won't, I hope it shows, that we are committed to giving up a large share of OUR spare time to help our sport flourish and support our Club.

We offer more working events than many other clubs; which I feel helps to make sure members renew their membership each year, as well as a steady flow of new people joining the club.

Thank you, Lee

“Good evening everyone. I’ve now be in post for 18 month and have completed one full season as Working Test Secretary. In 2018 the Club held 5 working tests using the four-judge system at each test. Venues were Leadhill House, Slaley, Wemmergill Estate, Streatlam Park and Eggleston Fell.

Our thanks to the gracious landowners and ground keeping staff for giving the club and members, the chance to run their dogs on such fantastic grounds.

All tests were very well attended with bulging running cards! We would like to see more young people in the Junior Handler category; but it was great to see the youngsters that did take part. Please try to encourage them to get involved, they are the future of our sport.

Our introduction of thanking dummy throwers and placers in 2017 has continued, and gifts are always well received from the great bunch of volunteers we’ve had. As in previous seasons I didn’t have to run around hunting for volunteers. However it does seem to be the same familiar faces offering at each test and I would encourage all members not to expect this assistance, and look to themselves to help with the dummy throwing and other duties. Folk learn so much from watching the dog work and learning about the judging, and new helpers are always welcome. Without these helpers, our tests would not be as comprehensive as they are and in some cases may not take place.

We are very grateful to our judges who were thanked with lunch (prepared by committee member Joanne Wilson) and a small gift with our thanks. Without the judges giving up their free time to help our events go ahead, none of the tests would take place. Thank you for giving us and our members, the benefit of your experience.

I’d like to thank our Inter club Team, who were selected based on consistency of performance during the earlier tests. Five teams took place and our team of Grant Dawson, Helen Ferguson, Shamanthi Shankar and Pat Staines gave a very commendable team performance at the event, hosted by Tyne Tees and Tweed in sweltering heat.

They worked brilliantly as a team supporting and encouraging each other (with the assistance of their cheerleader...Ken Alder). Also massive thanks to our judge John Lees. The team were narrowly beaten into 2nd place by the host team and yes I did run in the winning team, best move on with that.

Our thanks go to the N & D Three Man Chatsworth Team, picked by Lee Hartis. The team members were Lee Hartis, Russell Hodgen and Stewart North. Yet again they’ve gained automatic qualification for 2019 - 7 or 8 years in succession I believe? - by achieving a 4th place – Obviously room for improvement there!

I would like to congratulate Lee on achieving selection to the England Retriever Team again in 2018 and also getting through to the last day of the IGL with his FTCH Flint and I hope this continues.

Thank you to everyone who supported the club’s events, (members and non-members) including our committee and of course our valued sponsors Skinner’s and Gundog Gear. Their support is exceptional, which we never take for granted and make sure their sponsorship appears on our website, test reports, running cards, prize certificates and Facebook Page. Two great companies who do so much to help grass roots Clubs.

We did have a few issues during the year which were ultimately out of Club control, but overall it was a good year with exceptionally full running cards – so we must be doing something right!

The tests made a healthy profit which helped purchase new test equipment and offered support towards the field trials.

We have already started the 2019 test season at the very popular Leadhill House. There is always a great atmosphere here – with our hosts Mr and Mrs Cowan being on hand and enjoying chatting with people or watching the dogs work. The day went very well.

I did have massive reservations taking on the Test Secretary role, with shift work and family life - I didn't want to let the club down by doing a mediocre performance. I found out very early on that the position can be quite stressful and demanding. Organising grounds, judges, equipment, answering calls and replying to letters can take its toll. Balancing the needs of certain individuals was also a task, finding a compromise that suited all was required in some cases.

Social media is now more relevant than ever; seeing comments that were ultimately based on hearsay and rumour - I urge members to carefully consider what they post as these comments can be taken in different ways.

Looking back at last year overall, I had no hesitation in coming forward to complete another year. I had a laugh, met some great people, had to deal with some awkward moments and sometimes felt like being back at work! BUT I had the privilege of seeing some great dogs and handlers and it was very satisfying seeing the glee and sometimes astonishment when I presented the awards.

On a personal note I would like to thank Irene Davison. Without Irene's support I would not have been able to fulfil the role. Irene has helped me in every aspect of the job and has always been there to offer help and guidance. We don't always see eye to eye on everything however we always come to an amicable conclusion. The work Irene does for the club is unbelievable as I'm sure you will hear from the others on how much she contributes.

Another special lady who I also want to thank is my wife Julie. Julie has helped at every test, she has thrown dummies, done the raffle, parked cars, assisted with the admin side and has had to take the brunt of my temper tantrums. Again without Julie's help and support I would have struggled.

I would like to thank all the good folk who came forward and offered their help. On some occasions I had to politely turn some of them down, as I had plenty of offers - and I hope it happens again this year! There are also a few other members and friends I would like to thank, but I won't name them, they know who they are.

Finally I'd like to thank the "main man" - I ordered lovely weather for all the tests - I asked for no midges at Wemmergill - and I even rode my luck by asking to be in the awards with Drake. The man came through and fulfilled all my requests! Not sure why - as I'm not even religious, and I just hope I haven't put the mockers on things for this year. Thank you. "

"The calendar year for us always starts in February with the Eye Test, and Kay did a great job arranging this. The day was well attended as ever. And the club is always grateful to Stuart Ellis for supporting this event each year and he does a fantastic job getting through a huge number of dogs every time.

Our February Open Show follows the eye test and was held as usual in Bowburn Community Centre. Di Beer was our judge who travelled all the way from Devon and received a good entry of 101.

The show ran smoothly and it was nice to see club member Fiona McLean take a hat trick of BIS / RBIS / BPIS (with Afinmore Alain / Afinmore Azufral and Northernjoy Lollipop Afinmore)

Not long after this and following several years in the role Kay stepped down as Show Secretary. It has been a privilege for me to pick up where Kay left off.

I have to say everyone on the committee has given me their full support, and in particular Kay who has given me a good handover and has totally been there whenever I needed to ask about things. Irene, Anne and Lynda have also been a great help to me with their vast club / committee / rules and regs knowledge and I really appreciate having their support.

So my first show as secretary was our October Champ Show, held at our new venue - Haltwhistle Leisure Centre. I must admit I felt the pressure was on with all with all the changes at that time, and not knowing if the exhibitors would like the new venue, but the show committee were fantastic reassuring me all the way and everything went really well on the day.

The show saw 182 dogs making 215 entries going under 2 very respected Judges (Margaret Litherland and Rosemary Hewitt).

Both judges were very satisfied with the accommodation provided by Wydon Farm in Haltwhistle. And both judges enjoyed their day judging. I received a card from Margaret and a nice voice message from Rosemary afterwards, both expressed their thanks to the club for our hospitality. Feedback from exhibitors was also really positive despite the weather being pretty miserable. The staff at the venue were great providing old towels to dry the dogs and floor with amongst other things.

The catering by the venue was well received and the facilities were more than adequate. The overflow car parking we had agreed with the neighbouring school was withdrawn at very short notice when a new head teacher was appointed - this was the only drawback but we do have a workaround planned for this next time.

All in all the committee did a great job again throughout the event working together and we even got a mention in the breed notes in the "our dogs" newspaper.

That really concludes the activities on the show side, although we have had a busy start to 2019, you will have to come to next years AGM to hear all about that!

So just a big thanks again to all the committee and club officers who have helped me find my feet in the first year as secretary. Thanks"

“Unfortunately the Breed Council AGM had not taken place yet in 2019 and therefore could not be reported on as yet. Feedback to General committee would follow once the meeting had taken place.

Breed Health Co-ordinators report. *Lynda gave AGM feedback from the last meeting in 2018 (12th April) plus meeting with the BVA in Summer 2018 and progress since then.*

Topics discussed

Elbow Scoring *should soon be added to ABS (Assured Breeders Scheme) as a requirement – the formal process is almost complete and this should happen soon.*

Epilepsy – *the gene for light sensitive epilepsy has been isolated.*

CPRA - *a letter had been received regarding CPRA Atrophy to say the eye panel were looking at this within the breed. A previous paper written by Keith Barnet outlined the problem stemmed from a Vitamin E deficiency in the Briard and cocker spaniel. It was felt it was also due to a Vitamin B deficiency. If the problem can be resolved with vitamins supplements it may not be a priority for the breed but this needs to be proven in the Labrador unless we can find evidence to the contrary.*

Ectopic Urethra – *wet puppies. Please report any known cases to Lynda Heron.*

Genetic testing- *Changes in the handling of PRA results*

I have passed on a link to KC website to Irene and I am sure she will include it on NDLC website. The code UKLRBC will give those using Pawprints Panel of 5 tests, a 50% off discount at checkout.
<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/1160351/breed-dna-specific-r-415.pdf>

If you choose to use Pawprints panel of 5 tests called UK Labrador Breed Council, you can use discount code UKLRBC at your checkout and receive a 50% discount. Swabs can be posted normal air mail for less than £2. Meaning that all 5 genetic tests can now be purchased for just over £100 and KC will allow Hereditary Clear Status.

External Quality Assurance –*there has been a lack of this for testing laboratories and the committee had been concerned about this for a while. This is set to change and EQA of laboratories is to be taken forward by the organisation below.*

International Partnership for Dogs and EQA of Laboratories (DogWellnet.com) - -

The International Partnership for Dogs mission is to facilitate collaboration and sharing of resources to enhance the health, well-being and welfare of pedigreed dogs and all dogs worldwide. Dogwellnet.com, the internet platform of the IPFD functions as the information hub, providing links and additional resources to breeders and others in the dog world. Our Partners include numerous national kennel clubs, industry and non-profit organizations.

Give a Dog a Genome Project – *At the previous BC Meeting it was agreed that the Labrador would benefit if the breed went early with the project even if this meant raising the funds via the Clubs to do so. All Clubs were asked to agree to the payment to enabling this to happen. This had not progressed*

as The Yellow Labrador Club has requested more information and two Clubs (Cotswold and Wye and Northern Ireland) had yet to respond.

This will initially look at the three most important issues within the breed. The KC survey of Labrador Breed Health reported that the three most stated issue were –

- * Ear Problems
- * Obesity
- * Degenerative Joint Disease

However, it may be that the clubs would disagree about which issues should be investigated.

The Breed Clubs need to decide and provide evidence based reporting on the three areas of most concern to be looked at by the project.

- Elbow Dysplasia
- Hereditary Cataract
- Cruciate Ligament were suggested

A discussion was held on cruciate with the issue being on the increase in the past 20 years and is mainly seen in show lines. Increase of turn of stifle, over angulation to the rear, short hocks, excess of calcium given, lack of exercise and fitness in youngsters and overfeeding could all play a part.

Puppy Buyers Standard / Quality Standard Badge (NDLRC). Disappointingly although agreed by the meeting this has hit a brick wall I will be challenging the way this has been dealt with.

(Lynda was given full backing from N&D AGM to challenge this as stated)

Ending Health Control Scheme (KC) -

Under the scheme if a breeder produced an affected dog with GPRA (or other health issue with a test available) the KC would issue a letter stating a test was available and a recommendation that if to be bred from again not a clear dog was to be used.

The KC have said this practice is to be stopped as whilst they do not want to possibly loose pedigree data by refusing registration, it felt that most buyers could use the data available on Mate select/MYKC.

The provisional data from the Breed Survey said that 83% of Labradors were never bred from so therefore even if there is say only 2% failing an eye test this could be just the tip of the iceberg and the affected population could be much higher.

I spoke to Andrew (BVA) with regard to a possible meeting to look at raising health testing figures. The possibility of online submission PRIOR to x-rays was mentioned to try and avoid x-rays not being submitted. The meeting took place summer 2018 but sadly the promised progress never happened and Andrew Gillon left in March 2019.

Breed Health Survey – This was carried out by Lynda Heron and will prove extremely useful. 3000+ replies with 99.6% completion of all data including contact details.

Summary points –

258 respondents stated Ear Problems. 30% of which Otis Externa (Age onset between 1 and 2 years)
6 respondents stated Cerebral Vascular Problems. 2 Stokes, 2 Petit-mals, 2 fits
300 respondents stated Dermatological Problems. 52% of which was Dermatitis

192 respondents stated Gastro Intestinal Problems.

JVR said it might be worth reminding people the survey is there or at some point in the future issuing a cut off date and to start the survey again.

KC Website - *there is now a film on breeding a Labrador litter (Breed Specific).*

Videos – concerned over the quality of the filming (dark in some cases and the exhibits could not be seen at all times). There were concerns that more information should be given about youngsters and how to judge them in the breed.

*Thanks
Lynda Heron”*

(Delivered in Samantha's absence by Anne Beckley)

“Dear N&D Committee & Members,

My report as your Field Trial Representative this year covers the recommendations from the Field Trial Committee in 2017 (because they were not issued until after your AGM last year) and the recommendations of 2018 plus other matters that have arisen.

The topic of an extra field trial award to have preference in an Open stake was rejected by the Field Trial Committee. This was on the grounds that it would initially reduce pressure on Open stakes but would result in increased pressure on novice stakes. The Field Trial Committee were of the view that the negative implications outweighed the positives.

A declaration as part of clubs Conditions of Entry for Novice Retriever Stake was suggested by the Field Trial Committee and has been adopted by the N&D (for details see the Field Trial Newsletter Summer 2018, page 9 or N&D website). Whilst I appreciate the sentiment, the conditions of entry are not enforceable and thus probably not worth the paper they are written on.

Various J Regulations amendments have been adopted which include the increase to a maximum of 16 dogs in a 1-day Open stake and the addition of the wording ‘which meet the conditions of entry’ to JReg J7.K relating to All Aged stakes.

Guidance to judges about marking at gundogs tests was published in the Field Trial Newsletter Summer 2017 edition. It was in relation to some judges, at working gundog tests, awarding a zero to dogs fouling during an exercise. The guidance makes it clear that judges must agree a common scoring system and competitors must be informed of it prior to commencement of the Test. In other words, it is the judges decision on the day depending on the circumstances, level of competition etc, to determine what score they award for various misdemeanours and tell everyone before the test begins.

Admin guidance – Draw Preferences. It is not acceptable to amend draw preferences in favour of owners who have been members for a greater length of time. All fully paid up members must be treated equally.

Draw Errors – Club Committees have discretion as to how to proceed based on the circumstances they are presented with. Example, 1 missed entry out of 120 the Committee may decide not to redraw but 5 entries out of 120 maybe you would. It's all about the circumstances. Guidance may be published in a 2019 Field Trials Newsletter.

Published in the Summer 2018 Field Trial Newsletter was guidance on the Code of Good Shooting Practice in relation to field trials, page 10. Most recently confirmation that ALL judges must have attended a Kennel Club Judges Training Programme seminar, on Kennel Club J Regulations for the appropriate sub group. All judges must have passed the examination by the start of 2022 to continue accepting judging appointments. A free copy of the J Regulations booklet can be downloaded from the Kennel Club website.

In 2018 the N&D put forward two discussion items for the Field Trial Liaison Council Agenda. Firstly, a discussion around the Incident Book. Its purpose and how and when it should be used, as it was felt the field trialling community were unaware of the existence and purpose of the book. It was agreed by the Council and the Field Trial Committee that suitable guidance would be published in a 2019 Newsletter on this topic.

Secondly that the Field Trial Liaison Council meet twice a year to be more effective at grassroots level. This suggestion was off the back of the Field Trial Committee issuing guidance on matter directing effecting grassroots but not consulting Representatives beforehand. This approach often results in the theory and practice not being compatible. The Council did not support the suggestion of more meeting but guidance on the remit of the Council and the criteria for submission to the Agenda should be published in a 2019 Field Trial Newsletter.

I hope this report is of help to you all in one way or another and please don't forget that every member is able to put forward suggestions to their clubs and in turn to me to help improve our sport.

Samantha Whyte"

“The Kennel Club wrote to all breed clubs and councils to ask them to appoint a Breed Education Coordinator (BEC) for their breed by 1st June 2018. The BEC is to be responsible for overseeing the breed’s programme for educating its judges under the Judges Competency Framework (JCF), which will go live in January 2019. For Labradors Karl Gawthorpe (Waterbrook Labradors) was agreed as the BEC for breed. The role is an appointed one with no fixed term, this has been confirmed by Karl.

The role encompasses managing the information for the breed clubs/council in all breed educational opportunities, i.e. breed appreciation days, multiple-choice breed standard exam, mentors, observers, as well as the assessors and exhibits for the subsequent Kennel Club-organised breed competence assessments. Dedicated Kennel Club staff will assist the BEC in carrying out their role and provide them with advice and support throughout all stages of the JCF education process.

The role is essentially administrative, it is not intended to replace the vital role of a judges’ education process which the Kennel Club still expects breed clubs and councils to provide in order to meet their obligations under the JCF. The training of judges by breed clubs and councils is absolutely central to the JCF and its aim of producing suitably-qualified judges for future generations of dog show exhibitors.

As Labradors are a numerically large breed with 13 Breed Clubs (many breeds have only one) it was suggested that each club have a point of contact with the sole purpose of liaising with the BEC. This is to ensure that all clubs and councils are involved in the education of judges and will also help with the distribution of workload. I was appointed as point of contact role for N&D by the Show Sub Committee.

In 2018 all BEC’s were asked to compile a list of mentors for the purposes of training judges. Karl asked his POC (Points of Contacts) to compile a list and pass to him. It is the BEC’s role to sort the list, contact all the suggested people to ask for agreement, assess suitability. Match mentors to mentees and arrange dates. Initially only three clubs responded (One of which was N&D) and the BEC asked the POC to provide many more names. A second list was sent forward and a mentors list has been compiled although this can still be added to.

The new mentor scheme as launched in April for Labradors and has been successful so far. It is down to the up and coming judges to make contact with the BEC if they require any mentoring sessions or even wanting to be assessed under the old system for the A2.

Other most recent development has been the change to the fess that judges need to pay annually. There is now a new ‘Free of Charge’ level for Single breed CC judges who do not aspire to judge further breeds at CC level. Must have been approved to award CCs by 1 July 2019 and must apply for their judge’s licence by 31 December 2020. Who are entitled to judge CCs in one breed, as well as judge 3 classes of an additional breed or breeds (4 if a puppy class is scheduled) at open shows where they are also entitled to judge BIS, groups and AV classes.

It has been suggested that the BEC role should be voted upon annually rather than as is now indeterminate length. This would need to be proposed at the Breed Council Meeting and agreed there as the current position is as aforementioned. J McDonald 04/2019”