

1923

Celebrating 100 years

2023

President: The Lord Joicey

Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever Club

The information in the following is taken from the Club Minute books from 1926, unfortunately Book 1 is missing, and therefore the first 3 years are unaccountable.

Northumberland & Durham Labrador Retriever Club was founded in August of 1923 by a group of local Labrador fanciers. Meetings were held on a monthly basis in the meeting room of the Crows Nest Hotel in Newcastle with Mr E.J. Wilkinson in the Chair. Members of the Club were encouraged to attend as well as the Committee. The meeting room was hired at a cost of £3.00 for the year.

1926

At the 3rd AGM held on 3rd February 1926, the Chairman offered his resignation and was duly replaced by Mr. G. Attey. Representatives from the local press, namely the Journal and the Chronicle were in attendance, with reports appearing the following day.

Financially the Club was doing quite well, with £60.00 in the bank and assets of £100.00. The heaviest expenditure being the guaranteeing of Labrador classes at local Shows. Local Shows and canine associations would approach the Club and ask that we support their classes. This was done by guaranteeing a percentage of the loss on the classes, usually 25%, 50%, 75% or in some cases 100%. The Club had four trophies that would also be presented to agreed shows for Club members winning classes.

At the Northumberland County Show 1926, the club's Hon. President, J.A. Joicey Esq. won the Premier Cup, with Mr. James taking the other 3. They were presented by the Lady Mayoress, and with the press in attendance, gave a few suitable words to the Club's advantage. *"Your Members have had a successful year, taking fully 75% of honours at all local shows in the North"*.

Certain Labrador fanciers had realised that they did not need to be members of the Club to attend the Shows, as they would be supported anyway and had stopped paying their subscriptions. The Secretary, Mr, Charles Brown proposed something be done to retain the membership, and it was agreed that a Club Medal be struck. The medals would be given to winners of classes providing that they were current members of the Club. The head study for the medal was that of 'Flute of Flodden' owned by the Hon. President.

Membership was limited to 70 members, and new members could only be accepted on the resignation of another, provided that they were resident in Northumberland or Durham.

1927

The Club was asked to guarantee the North and South Shields Show. The Club replied asking that consideration be given to GOLDENS, as schedules had already been prepared this was not possible, so all financial support was withdrawn and given to Sunderland Show, who agreed to schedule 2 Golden open classes, 2 black open classes, and 2 classes for black or golden!

The Club agreed to present a medal for each class. It was also agreed that at any Show where the Club trophies were on offer, the dog and bitch finishing highest in their class and owned by a Club member, would again parade before the judge who would then award the trophies.

1928

It was agreed to increase the membership and drop the subscription to 5/- from 10/- Northern Goldsmiths were requested to add engravable shields to the Club Trophies.

1929

The first mention of Yellow Labradors came when Carlisle Canine Society asked us to guarantee two classes. Unfortunately, at the Show, the classes were for Golden Retrievers! so the Club declined payment. More medals and spoons were ordered from Northern Goldsmiths, but when they were received the head was not that of a Labrador, and they were duly returned.

THE CLUB SPOONS

1930

By 1930 The Club were now supporting Championship Shows with donations of medals, spoons, and cash. The proviso being that they were not too far for the membership to travel.



1933

The Club had a circular printed regarding the aims and objectives of the Club, this was to be given to anyone interested in the Breed.

1934

Brought the Club's first lecture, with local vet. Mr. Colin Welsh, talking on the subjects of distemper and inoculation.

The first mention of puppy classes was at the Bellingham Show, when the Club agreed to support them on the proviso that a puppy class was provided.

Field Trials were given their first mention in 1934, with the only obstacle being the question of ground. The Hon. President was approached asking permission to use his estate.

As back up to this the N & D Retriever Society was asked if we could be allowed to run a stake at their next trial. This was dismissed as it would contravene their Club rules.

Mr Poynton from Gosforth offered his land to be used for a Trial and also a cup to be presented. As a token of the Club's appreciation, Mr. Poynton was made an Honorary Vice President. Unfortunately the ground was unsuitable due to it being heavily shot over, lack of cover and the remaining game being very wild. It was agreed to postpone the Trial until 1935.

It was proposed in 1934 to hold a 'specialist Show' for Labradors only. *"This would be a unique venture and was bound to be a success due to the large number of Labrador fanciers in the North alone"*. A special meeting was called and all members invited. Letters of support had been received from all over the Country, with Dog World and Our Dogs having representation.

It was agreed to approach the Labrador Club of Scotland and the Labrador Club and propose that the Show be held jointly, the first show would be held in Newcastle as we were the originators of the scheme, with the 2nd and 3rd shows be held in Edinburgh and London.

The Yellow Labrador Club to be asked to support the yellow classes. All costs to be shared equally and the judge and classification to also be jointly agreed. A letter was received from the Labrador Club not wishing to support the proposed show. Four months passed and the Labrador Club of Scotland had failed to give a suitable reply so it was decided to go it alone.

A date was set for April 1935 with 30 classes scheduled and a sub-committee formed, and guarantors for classes sought. Towards the end of 1934 it was agreed that the Club would need to schedule 40 classes to create greater interest. 10 classes would be limited to members, split into black and yellow except for the puppy and junior classes which would be for any colour. A game-keepers class was scheduled and a request for guarantors lead to 30 classes being sponsored.

Interest for the Show was growing and it was decided that a Scottish judge be appointed to ensure a good entry from north of the border. The date was set for May 6th which was Jubilee Day. Unfortunately all the local halls were already booked for the celebrations so it was reluctantly agreed to postpone until the following spring.

Another first in 1934 was the drawing up of a sales register for puppies and older stock. Details were read out at the start of the monthly meeting.

1935

In 1935 came the decision that the Club would only support future Shows if we agreed with the classification and could also nominate the judge.

On the Field Trial front, an offer of land had come from Capt. Parlour. It was agreed to run 18 dogs over 2 days. Everything was organised, then Capt. Parlour contacted the Club to inform that he didn't have 2 days available and the McNeil shoot would only accommodate 9 or 10 dogs. It was agreed to postpone until the 3rd week in September 1936.

A disgruntled member accused the Secretary of choosing a judge for the Newcastle New Years Day Show to suit himself without consultation with the Committee. This led to the Secretary offering his resignation. The Chairman expressed his annoyance at this insinuation and referred back to previous minutes, proving that the nomination had gone through the proper channels. The Secretary was given a vote of confidence and asked to reconsider his resignation, which he did and agreed to carry on.

1937

The Club placed an advert in the Shooting Times and The Field asking for offers of ground to hold a one day Trial as the Club now had 2 trophies that had never been competed for.

1938

The Club held its first Sanction Show, this was not as ambitious as previously discussed but nevertheless it was a start. There were 13 classes held at the Chronicle Hall, Pudding Chare, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the evening of Friday 25th March.

Entry fees were 2/6 with prize money of 1st 10/-, 2nd 5/-, 3rd 2/6, and specials also on offer. Admission was 6d., as were the catalogues. The judge was Mr. George Lackie from Dundee, and the Hon. Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Colin Welsh MRCVS.

118 entries were made by 50 dogs with the best exhibit and winner of the Dog World diploma of Merit going to Yarm's Mrs. E. Rogers yellow bitch 'Berkie Golden Charm'. The Show was considered a great success even though there was a loss of £6-4-9, this was compensated by the number of new members enrolled.

At the Show the following year, 24 classes were scheduled but this time there were 6 for Golden Retrievers and 2 Any Variety Retriever. 35 Labradors and 17 Golden made 145 entries with best exhibit going to Mr. P. Wilford-Gillhespy's Chipchase Rex.

The Club ordered the first of its' lapel badges which were designed and made by Messrs Fattorini of Birmingham and sold for 2/- each.

In view of the outbreak of World War II, the Secretary was instructed to cancel the Club meeting room bookings at the Crows Nest Hotel, and the calling of future meetings to be left to the discretion of the Secretary.

1945

The Club re-started in March 1945 with a meeting at the Y.M.C.A. and a letter sent to all 1939 members recommending that Club activities be resumed. It was agreed that subs be increased to 10/-

1946

The first Championship Show was held at the Yeomanry Drill Hall, Northumberland Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 26th October 1946 and the Kennel Club had granted C.C.s to be awarded. 127 dogs made 387 entries with Mr. F. Warner-Hill judging.

The dog C.C. was awarded to Mr. J. Dunwoodie's *Lochar Gold Flake*, the RES dog C.C. awarded to Mrs. A. Wormald's *Knaith Boboy*. The bitch C.C. went to Mrs. Gwen Broadley's *Sandylands Blackberry*, with the Res. C.C. to Mr. J.M. Manson's *Golden Gleam of Glengour*.

This Show was benched, the Club had taken the opportunity to buy 140 used benches for £46.00. This proved to be an astute move, with the benching being hired to other shows at a cost of approx £12.00 a time, and eventually being sold two years later for £18.00 when it had seen better days.

An arranged Field Trial at Lambton Park had to be postponed due to lack of game.

1947

1947 arrived and the Club finally organised and ran the first Field Trial. This was a Novice Stake held at Ford by the kind invitation of Col. Lord Joicey. D.S.O. on 11th October.

1st was Lt. Col. J.W. Sale's "*Biddy Leak*", 2nd Major H. Peacock's "*Greatford James*", 3rd Col. Lord Joicey's "*Etal Pansy*" and reserve was Col. G. Craster's "*Larkspur*"

An All-Aged Stake was also held at Lambton Park by the kind permission of Viscount Lambton on 18th October. 1st was Mrs. G. Roslin Williams' "*Carry of Mansergh*", 2nd Mr. R. N. Burton's "*Brackenbank Trigger*" 3rd Mrs. A. Wormald's "*Knaith Banjo*" and reserve, Col. G. Craster's "*Larkspur*".

In 1947 Northumberland & Durham Retriever Society approached the Club with a view to amalgamating. After serious thought and a number of meetings, it was agreed upon to call an Extraordinary General meeting to be held at the Royal Station Hotel 21st February 1948 to discuss matters.

The club committee having considered the matter most carefully, unanimously recommended amalgamation of the Clubs to the membership. The N & D Retriever Society had been founded in 1908, they had a good membership and a strong financial resource. Their primary interest was in Field Trials. The amalgamation was agreed and the Club kept its' name due to the fact that Labradors owners made up the bulk of the Retriever Society membership.

1948

The Club received the proposed Breed Standard from the Kennel Club. This was reviewed and sent back to the K. C. with recommendations for amendment and alteration.

The Club joined the British Field Sports Society in 1948.

In 1948 the Club purchased £200.00 of savings bonds.

The Club held its' first Puppy Stake at Lambton Park on 2nd October 1948, and the first Open Stake at Alnwick on 22nd October

1949.

The Club joined the International Gundog League in 1949.

It was agreed in 1949 to draw up a list of judges to be used at forthcoming shows, and have the membership democratically elect the judge.

In early 1950, representatives for each of the Breed Clubs met at the Kennel Club and the Breed Standard was finalised.

1950

The Club continued to hold its' monthly Committee meetings at the YMCA in Newcastle. The Club supported not only the numerous local Shows by means of guaranteeing prize money for classes, but also supported many of the Championship Shows of the day with the likes of the Scottish Kennel Club and the City of Birmingham asking for sponsorship. The proviso usually being that the judge be selected from our list and that any prizes donated by the Club could only be won by our own members.

With the onset of our Championship Show it was agreed to take advertising with *Our Dogs*, *Dog World* and the *Dog Fancier*.

The Kennel Club had requested nominations for 'Specialists' to join the Breed Liaison Council. The Club nominated Mrs. Gwen Broadley of 'Sandylands' fame, and secondly, Mrs. Joyce Saunders of the 'Lidley' affix. The sum of 10/- be contributed to the Liaison Council delegates expense pool.

Copies of the Breed Standard were available from the Kennel Club, and the Secretary was instructed to purchase 25 copies for re-sale to the members.

A copy of the K.C. Show judging list was requested, this list had been drawn up from nominations by the Specialist Breed Clubs. The Club advised the K.C. that they recommended the addition of two further judges and the deletion of another two!

The K.C. was also in the throes of re-organising the Field Trial Council and the Club nominated Capt. Colin M. Laing as Club Representative.

The Club applied to run a Members Show, but was told by the K.C. that Members Specialist Shows could not be run, so it was agreed to change it to a Limited Show. 15 classes were scheduled and it unfortunately made a loss of £16.00.

A Field Trial was held at Ford by kind permission of Col. Lord Joicey, which also made a loss of just under £12.00.

A request from 'Our Dumb Friends League' for support for the Mrs. Charles Cruft Memorial Fund was agreed and the sum of 10/- was donated.

1951

The Championship Show was to be held in March, but as no venue had been found, it was agreed to postpone it until May.

The Secretary, Mr Graham Baptie had resigned his position due to the pressures of work. It was passed unanimously that he be made a life member in recognition of his service to the club.

1952

It was agreed that the Clubs' accounts be audited by an outside source.

There were again problems in finding a suitable venue for the Championship Show and a proposed move south to the Baths Hall, Darlington was agreed.

April saw a meeting with the Golden Retriever Society to discuss the joint running of a Championship Show, this did not come to fruition.

The K.C. had contacted the Club and offered us an October date for the Championship Show in 1953, the Committee opted for the 24th, and we are still in October to this day.

Lord Londonderry wrote to the Club inviting us to use the ground at Wynyard Park, and hoped we could make this an annual event.

1953

In this the year of the Queen's coronation, the year brought with it the Northern Canine Coronation Show. The Club agreed to guarantee all 12 Labrador classes and would also select the judge. £1.00 was loaned to the Show Secretary towards expenses.

1954

Mr. W. Alexander donated a silver cup 'in recognition of a happy and well run Show,' and also 'to encourage those pot-hunting Scots to cross the border.'

It was agreed that the 1955 Championship Show classes would be open to dogs of any colour and not have specific classes for Black and Yellow.

There had also been a special donation of 2 gallons of Jeyes Fluid, providing we carried a Jeyes advert in our schedule.

1955

A quiet year for the Club, apart from a famous personality being elected as a vice-president of the Club, namely Mr. J. Arthur Rank. Later to become Lord Rank, head of the world famous Rank Organisation. Lord Rank liked nothing more than shooting when he could and also training his Gundogs.

1956

It was suggested that a colour film about Labradors be shown following the completion of judging of the Members Show in June.

The Club had ordered Club Spoons to be awarded at local and Championship Shows, provided that class winners were fully paid up members of N & D.

Over 50 special prizes had been received for the Members Show, and it was agreed to allocate them after the entries had been received.

Miss Ann Zeigler is accepted as a member.

1957 A.G.M.

Our Veteran classes used to be for dogs aged 5 and over, it was proposed at the A.G.M. that this be raised to 7 years and over, this was defeated.

A request by the members to update our rules and membership list was also turned down as this would be too expensive.

It was pointed out that our forthcoming Members Show was the same day as the Labrador Club Championship Show. The decision was taken to carry on and write to the Secretary of the Labrador Club.

A further letter was received from Lorna Countess Howe requesting the date be changed. The Secretary explained that we had already replied to her Committee explaining why this could not be granted.

The rest of the meeting was taken up with a discussion on characteristics – endearing and otherwise, of dogs the members had known. It was agreed that behaviour was at times unpredictable!

It was decided to try and appoint an all lady panel of judges for the Open Stake as this would be seen as breaking new ground. Unfortunately, one judge was unavailable, and the reserve was a man.

The Championship Show preparations were under way. Tyne taxis said they would be available to carry one dog at a time from Newcastle train station to the venue for 6/- a trip. It was agreed that this offer was useless, and other forms of transport be found.

It was Club policy to offer transport from the station to any exhibitor who had travelled over 30 miles, provided that they inform the Secretary of their time of arrival.

The other form of transport was provided by Miss Zeigler, who ferried exhibitors and dogs backwards and forwards to the venue in her own car! The R.A.C. had promised to sign post the route to the Show

It was agreed that at future Field Trials, the judges should have a steward and a game-carrier each. Preference should be given to members when allocating these jobs.

The Club was invited to a match night against the North Eastern Bull Terrier Club to be held in the Half Moon Inn at Gateshead, unfortunately I don't have any details regarding the format of the Show, but I'm sure it would have been interesting.

The Members Show introduced a new class, exhibit handled by a lady throughout the Show.

1958

Membership stood at 122. Mrs. Joan Grant is accepted as a member.

Blackpool Championship Show schedule was printed, the Club instructed the Secretary to write to them expressing our dissatisfaction with regard to the lack of middle classes, and to send them a copy of our schedule so they could see how to do it properly!

1959

Following the A.G.M. a colour film was screened, courtesy of Mr. Wrigley, who after a ballot was elected to judge the 1960 Championship Show.

1960

A letter was received from a nominated judge with regards to conditionally accepting the appointment but stating that she had a firm bias in favour of Blacks. It was decided to withdraw her invitation.

A small sub-committee was set up to discuss the amendments to the Club rules.

The Club had received a copy of a new Labrador Book by Mr. F. Warner Hill from W&G Foyle Ltd, to show to the membership.

The Field Trial Committee was to approach the Television Companies to determine if there was any interest in the forthcoming Open Stakes.

It was agreed that if a judge gave their services for free, then they should receive a gift such as a box of chocolates.

The Secretary had received from the K.C. the Field Trial list of panel judges, rules, guide to judges and the Field Trial Council recommendations.

It was agreed that the Club should purchase 12 yards of coconut matting with eye-holes pierced into it, to be used in the centre of the show ring. The question of storage was highlighted, and it was agreed to see how bulky it was prior to any final decision being made.

It was agreed that great firmness must be shown to exhibitors who persisted in removing their dogs from the benches for longer than the permitted 10 minutes, and on no account would dogs be allowed at the ringside.

The Secretary was instructed to write a strong letter of complaint to Darlington Dog Show regarding the judging of ponies in the same ring. Unless assurances were given, future support would be withdrawn.

The Championship Show entry suffered quite badly that year, due to the rail strikes.

A letter received regarding the formation of a Yorkshire Labrador Club, the Chairman would write to all Breed Club Secretaries to ascertain their attitude.

Replies were received from the President of the Labrador Club of Scotland and the Secretary of Midland Labrador Club, and it was unanimously agreed that we couldn't sponsor the formation of such a Club.

Foot and Mouth disease reared its' ugly head, causing the Retriever Championship to be moved to another venue, and then subsequently cancelled as the epidemic spread.

1961

North British Canine Society had been allocated the 3rd June for their Show, which happened to be the same day as ours. They offered to share the same venue, but we declined the offer and informed the K.C. that this was unacceptable.

The Club wrote to the K.C. regarding the reports in the dog press which proposed the formation of the Three Ridings Labrador Club. The K.C. confirmed this and said their application would appear in the next Kennel Gazette.

It was not for the first time that we had tried to hold a Championship Show in conjunction with the Scottish Kennel Club, but were again forbidden to do so by the K.C.

It was agreed at the A.G.M. that refunds due to withdrawals from field events would be at the discretion of the Committee. There had been a lot of very late withdrawals with members requesting the return of fees, and no time to organise replacements.

1962

It was agreed to finally bring the 1929 rule book up to date.

Preliminary training classes began for the Working Tests, priced at 2/-, which would be put towards prizes. The first being held at Ebchester on Saturday 24th June.

Mr. Townsend contacted the club and offered to run a training class at Wynyard. This was agreed as desirable provided that only Club members took part.

The objective of the 2 training classes was that they compete against each other. The first Test was to be held at Wynyard on 16th September with Mr. Attey as judge, this was later changed to Ebchester with Mr. Douglas as judge. It was agreed to keep things simple.

The Three ridings invited us to take part in an interclub working competition. This was agreed and also said to be a very good idea.

1963

The Championship Show saw Mrs. Gwen Broadley judging.

A letter from Mr. F. Warner Hill, agreed to judge the 1964 CH. Show provided that full 1st class travel fares were met. The Club made him an offer, but he stated that he was no longer available to judge. The Committee agreed that they had acted quite generously.

The Club decided that the training classes should now be called training groups and were open to everyone as long as they joined the Club. This proved to be a master stroke as membership soared by 25 at the first group meeting and many more were expected to follow.

The Secretary asked permission to hire a loud-hailer to conduct an experiment at the Field Trials!

1964

A new brief case was purchased. They were certainly built to last in those days as I am still using it!

A proposal was received to change the wording of the colour standard from chocolate to liver. It was agreed that this was not desirable.

Miss Lambert gave the Club 2 spoons to be known as the Laird of Lochaber Spoons, and were for the 'Best headed dog' resident in Northumberland or Durham not coming less than reserve in its' class.

1965

The Committee meetings moved from the Y.M.C.A. to the offices of Cmdr. Blacklock in Gunner House.

It was agreed that when draws for the Field Trials were made, the whole Committee should be present.

It was also agreed that a nomination was for the right to enter a dog in the name of the applicant, and not the right to enter the name of the dog by the applicant.

The Club had in its' possession £150.00 of 3% savings bonds, it was agreed that they be sold and the money reinvested in the 1965/75 issue.

At the CH. Show there was reference made to a dog biting incident, but stated that the parties concerned had settled their differences and this should be the end of the matter.

1966

Mr Hogg resigned his post as Secretary which he had held for the previous 10 years, and was made an honorary life member. It was agreed that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer be combined and be known as the General Secretary / Treasurer. It was also decided to elect a Field Trial Secretary Mrs. Bessie Lidster joins the Club and is immediately asked to represent us along with Dr. Berry and Mr. Davidson as a team to compete against the Three Ridings.

Membership had now grown to 213.

The Club had successfully ran 3 training groups with the latter being at Matfen, which was now starting to tail off, so it was agreed to stop it and carry on with the original two.

An invitation to hold a Working Test at Lilymere, the home of Mrs. Roslin Williams was gratefully accepted.



It was agreed that the all aged test be for members resident in Northumberland or Durham, or had attended 5 or more training sessions.

Mrs. Grant joins the Committee along with Mr. Molison, whilst Mrs. Bessie Lidster is also invited to join, and accepts.

The Limit Show brought a huge entry of 151.

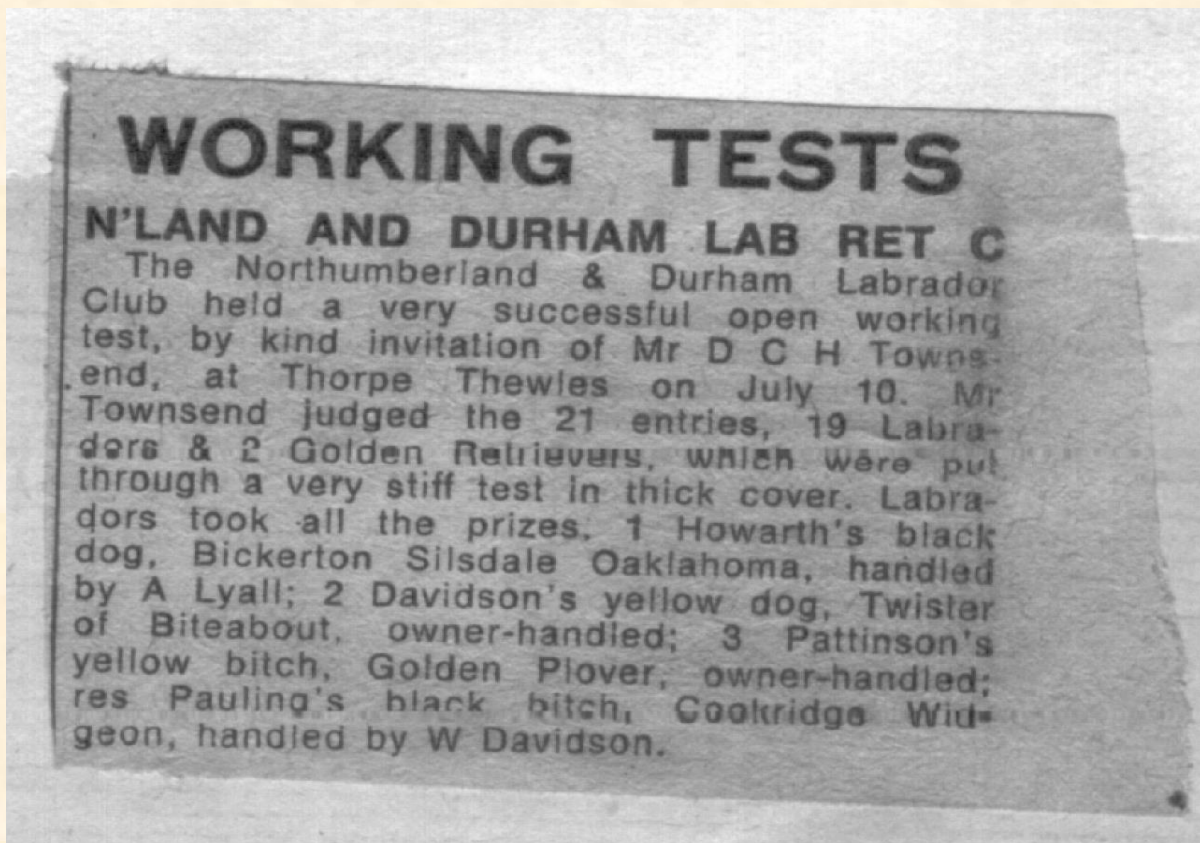
Mr. Les Brabban and Mrs. Joan Macan join the Club.

It is proposed that the Club make protest to the K.C. regarding the prevention of registration of 'unpedigree' Labradors as this was detrimental to the Breed.

Spillers offer the Club free stationary, in exchange for sole advertising rights, this was rejected by the Committee.

Mr. Barry Lidster offers to make a cine film of the Wynyard Trial, this was gratefully accepted, provided that the Host had no objection.

Mrs. B. Lidster told the Committee that the film would last for about 10 minutes and would be shown at the first meeting in January 1967.



1967

A letter was received from Midland Counties inviting the Club to send representatives to discuss changing the wording of the Breed Standard from Chocolate to Liver.

Our Club proposed the formation of a Breed Council and that this item should be discussed at the meeting which was to be held in Leeds.

Mrs. Wormald is made an Honorary Life Member.

Mr. & Mrs. Eddie and Nan Austermuhle join the Committee.

It was agreed, though not unanimously, that no guarantees be offered to any Show for this year.

The secretary wrote to Our Dogs and Dog World to protest about their policy of not reporting Sanction Shows. The threat of our Members withdrawing their subscriptions was then made if their present policy continued.

Both Newspapers replied with much the same answers- that due to high production costs, they had to curtail the reports of Shows.

A Club Year Book was first discussed and printing agreed. It was to include results of Shows, Field Trials, Working Tests and Club Spoon winners. The full list of names and addresses of all Members would also be published.

It was agreed to buy 24 dummies, 12 of which would be for general sale to members, with the other 12 being for the training classes.

Messrs. Daggett and Douglas were to be given a bottle of whisky each, in recognition of their work at the training classes.

Club badges were ordered from Messrs. Fattorini of Birmingham.

The inaugural meeting of the Breed Council took place. The idea being to bring about the close co-operation of all Breed Clubs, to discuss matters of general interest in the Breed, and to be of assistance to the Kennel club, if so desired.

Mrs. Taylor was elected Secretary/Treasurer, and Mr. Gilliat, Chairman. It was agreed that the Chairman would be changed annually.

A panel of 'A' & 'B' judges for Open & Championship Shows would be formed.

All Clubs expressed their undesirability towards the registration of non-pedigree Labradors. The discussion regarding Chocolate or Liver, was decided that this choice would be left to the individual.

At the All Aged Field Trial, the Judge withheld all prizes, but did award 8 certificates of merit. Notification came from the Northern Counties Cocker Spaniel Club informing us of their intended change of name to – the Northern Counties Cocker Spaniel and Gundog Club.

1968

It was suggested that the Clubs' first Seminar be held at the June Show, with Mrs. Roslin Williams giving her 'Dog Talk'.

Mrs. R.W. agreed, but not at a Show, and would rather speak at a social evening.

Membership now stood at 237.

The first Show Judging Lists were made in February and consisted of:-

A List

Mrs. M.V.A. Byrd	Mrs. G. Broadley	Mr. J.H. Braddon
Mr. C. Brown	Mr. M. Boothroyd	Mr. Grant Cairns
Mrs. Grant Cairns	Mrs. L.M. Daly	Mr. T. Dinwoodie
Mrs. T. Dinwoodie	Mrs. B.M. Docking	Mr. M.C.W. Gilliat
Miss D. Gilliat	Mr. J.K. Hart	Mrs. J. Harvey
Mr. G. Harvey	Mrs. A. Hill	Lady Hill Wood
Mr. J.E. Hoyle	Mr. L. C. James	Mrs. D. James
Mrs. D. Johnson	Mrs. M. Kinsella	Flt. Lt. R.A. McCosh
Mrs. M.Y. Pauling	Mr. F. Parsons	Mrs. R. Parsons
Mrs. K. Rowland	Mrs. Roslin Williams	Mrs. A. Radclyffe
Mrs. P. Rae	Mrs. M. Scott	Dr. W. S. Shaw
Mrs. J. Saunders	Mrs. Saffell	Mrs. D. A. Taylor
Mrs. A. Wormald	Mr. F. Wrigley	Mrs. L. Wilson Jones
Mr. H. Wilson Jones	Mr. F. Warner Hill	Mrs. Warwick
Mr. Whitbread.		

B List

Mr. E. Austermuhle	Mrs. D. Beckett,	Mr. T. Carruthers
Miss K. R. Collins	Mr. S. J. Crane	Mr. G. Douglas
Mrs. D. Gibbs	Mrs. E. Harris	Mr. R. Hepworth
Mrs. Hinchcliffe	Mr. T. R. Hogg	Mrs. W. Howarth
Mrs. N. Hoyle	Mrs. B. Lidster	Mr. P.J. Martin
Mr. N. Robinson	Miss A.R. Todd	Mr. J. Wilkinson
Mrs. M. Wilkinson	Mrs. M. Wooley	Miss A Ziegler.

The Game fair was to be held at Wynyard Park, and the Club supported the event by holding an extra Working Test.

The British Field Sports Society ask that all Clubs attending the Fair, lend them the sum of £10.00. 60 % of any profit would be returned to the lenders. £10.00 was duly sent. The Fair was a great success and the Club received its initial £10.00 and a profit of £60.00! £10.00 was donated back to the B.F.S.S.

March, Mr. & Mrs. J. Halstead join the Club.

It was agreed that the June Show become an Open event, the colour classes be cut out, and the Field Trial class be changed to a Special Open for dogs from our Wynyard training class.

N & D had won the Three Ridings Working Rally and congratulations were sent to Mr. Davidson and Mr. Townsend.

A working Test held at Matfen was judged by Mr. Ronnie Keers. Entry qualification was by attending the Wynyard training class on 5 or more occasions.

1969

Notice was received from Pelham Books, advising that 'The Dual Purpose Labrador' by Mary Roslin Williams was now in print and was available for £1-12-6 post free.

Club Subs were to rise to 15/-.

The Club had an application from possibly its first overseas member, when Mrs. Burgis of Australia applied along with a generous donation of £4.00.

At the Breed Council meeting, delegates were instructed to support the Labrador Club of Northern Ireland in their efforts to gain Championship status.

Child handling was introduced for the first time at the Open Show with Mrs. Janet Barlow judging the children.

Best in Show was to be given a length of Otterburn Tweed kindly donated by the Chairman, Miss Spence.

Mr. & Mrs Austermuhle had also kindly donated a length of rubber matting to be used at the Shows.

A dummy launcher belonging to Mr. Davidson was used for the first time at the Lilymere Working Test. It was such a success that the Club decided to purchase its own for the training class. Mr. Davidson offered to make one, provided he could obtain a suitable gun.

Miss Hope joins the Committee.

Mr. Neville Barlow joins the Club.

The social evening was held at Wynyard with 90 people in attendance. Mrs. Roslin Williams talk went very well, and the evening was rounded off by watching Labrador films.

The Working Test at Lilymere caused a lot of complaints, as a spaniel was allowed to compete. It was agreed that in future the competition be confined to Labradors.

P.R.A. was discussed, and the Committee felt the Club should give as much publicity as possible and have an information stand at the Championship Show. Mrs. Grant was appointed Publicity Agent, and the Club would provide printed literature.

The item was also to be brought up at the next Breed Council Meeting.

The Matfen Working Test was won by Mr. Gordon Cripps' *Wolviston Jess*. Unfortunately the day was marred following a complaint from the Estate regarding the ill treatment of a dog by one of the competitors. It was made plain to the Club that if anything like this happened again, the ground would be unavailable for future events. The Committee stated that anyone found guilty of such behaviour would automatically be disqualified.

Dr. K. Barnett agreed to run an eye testing session restricted to Club members and to be held in Newcastle at the surgery of Honorary Veterinary Surgeons Messrs. Grant & Welsh.

1970

Mrs. Judith Charlton joins the Committee.

The P.R.A. debate was really taking off, and the Club were extremely proactive in trying to establish a way forward to combat the problem. A letter supporting our proposals to the K.C. through the Breed Council was received from the North West Labrador Club.

The following list of recommendations were put forward.

1. The registration of all puppies shall depend upon the production of a certificate of clinical freedom from P.R.A. for both parents.
2. All registrations of puppies shall be temporary until permanent certificates of clinical freedom from P.R.A. in respect of each individual animal shall be produced when registration shall become permanent.
3. All such temporary registrations shall be automatically cancelled if a permanent certificate is not produced by the age of 4 ½ years.
4. Where the Sire or Dam hold interim certificates the temporary registrations of all their progeny shall be suspended should either parent subsequently develop P.R.A. until such progeny are proved free by clinical testing.
5. The names of all affected dogs shall be published and their registrations cancelled.

6. The K.C. shall maintain a register of all dogs certified clinically free to which breeders may refer.

It is felt that this scheme is administratively impractical at the present time for all breeds, it is suggested that such a super register might be set up on a voluntary basis for Labradors.

Failing this the following suggestions are made as an interim measure:-

1. No Labrador to be given the title of Show Champion, Champion or Field Trial Champion unless it is certified clinically free from P.R.A. or have an interim certificate”.
2. To run at the Retriever Championship Trials, in addition to working qualifications, if over two years, must be certified clinically free from P.R.A., or to have an interim certificate.

All but one was rejected which read:- “No Labrador to be given the title of Show Champion, Champion or Field Trial Champion unless it is certified clinically free from P.R.A. or have an interim certificate”.

Membership is now booming with the latest total standing at 300. The Club is going from strength to strength, and has an increasingly strong voice in all matters of the Labrador.

As you will hopefully now realise, I have tried to pinpoint the most interesting and prominent points in our Clubs’ long history. These include the decisions taken by your respective Committees over the years which have been developed and moulded it in to what the Club is today.

Your opinion as always is invaluable, it is your Club, run on your behalf by fellow members. If you have any criticism, constructive or otherwise, then please let me know, but also remember that your Committees work is voluntary and without them the Club would cease to exist.

