

# NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Bowburn Community Centre



www.ndlabclub.co.uk

**Those Present:** Lynda Heron, Jill Dickson, Linda Thompson, Irene Davison, Kay Jenkins, Wendy Wilson, Joanne McDonald, Kira Leith-Ross, Fiona Maclean, Sam Allison, Bill Lambell, Margaret Gibson, David Tulip, Ian Palmer, Steven McDermott, Anne Beckley, Colin Maddison, Lee Hartis, Shamanthi Shankar, David Scott

1. **Apologies from:** Paul Dixon, Pippa Williams, John Cavana, Rachel Williams, Mr and Mrs W&M Gardner, Gary Barrett, Gary Layfield, Judith Keating, Judith Woodruff, Lesley Orchard.
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM** with one addendum were unanimously agreed as a true record of events. (Proposed by Wendy Wilson and seconded by Ann Beckley)
3. **Matters Arising from the previous minutes** – None presented
4. **Chairpersons address:** Lynda Heron

*I would like to welcome you all to the 2014 AGM of Northumberland and Durham LRC and thank you all for coming.*

*2013 seems to have flown by and all the systems put in place by your officers and committees have shown fruit and it appears to me, to have been a smooth and enjoyable 90th Anniversary year. I will leave it to the individual officers to talk about the events held.*

*I am sure that only people who volunteer as officers or have done the job themselves in the past; truly understand the work involved in doing the job well – and each and every one has surpassed the necessities and have brought flair and dedication to the roles they have held. Heartfelt thanks from and on behalf of the members - and especially from me.*

*We are grateful to Fiona and Colin for all the work they put into their respective roles of Working Test Secretary and Field Trial Secretary. They are both stepping down from those roles but I am delighted that they have chosen to stay on the Field Trial Committee and support our new Officers in their roles.*

*In May we co-opted Bill Kennedy to the role of General Secretary but sadly Bill's health has not been good and we felt it unfair to expect him to continue in this role. We give him our best wishes for his improved health and thanks for the work he has done.*

*We give grateful thanks to the Land Owners and Sponsors who support us year after year. Without their consistent support with the use of land and providers of prizes; where would we be without them? We never take our sponsors for granted and are truly appreciative of their involvement.*

*Finally - Thank you to every one of you who have helped and supported the Club throughout the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and enabled us to make Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever Club FUN! I hope you enjoyed it.*

## 5. **Secretary's Report:**

Unfortunately due to the ill health of the secretary during 2013, no report was presented and the General Committee letter was cited as the update, which had been previously circulated to all members. The Chair added her thanks to the additional work of officers and committee members who had ensured the role requirements were fulfilled in entirety. She offered Bill Kennedy her appreciation and wished for his better health.

## 6. **Treasurer's Report:** Jill Dickson

*The accounts are possibly more detailed than they have ever been before. This has given us the opportunity to look at costs over the range of events we promote and analyse the expenditure.*

*You will see from the balance sheet, that there is a deficit in the balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 of £1115.23 compared with our starting balance at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. This can be explained by some "one off" payments, for example: - licenses for setting up the new website and a payment to Labrador Welfare of £300 which was an historic amount of donations that we discovered were received but had not been paid to Lab Welfare in recent years.*

*The club also invested in a printer and laminator in July/August and printing is now done "in house" – well Lynda's house actually! Although we bear the cost of the initial outlay, we are already seeing benefits with the cost of printing for the working events having more than halved.*

*We also made the decision to invest in a recommended Walkie-Talkie set, which has been used mainly for the Field Trials and has been a great success.*

*The cost of these three items was £728 which we consider a good investment for the Club. We should see even more savings next year because of these purchases.*

*Costs in general are increasing; and expenses for the various events are no exception and the sub-committees are using these accounts to consider where savings can be made during 2014 and for future years.*

*Mr Glaholm the Accountant has signed the accounts for 2013 and has said he will have to issue a reasonable charge if we wish him to carry on reviewing the accounts. He will offer the club a 50% discount on his normal charges. If this is not agreed by the Committee, then we will have to engage another accountant, in which case Mr Glaholm will provide spreadsheets etc. to enable a smooth transition.*

*The reason I mention this, is in case anyone has any knowledge of an accountant; maybe within the Club, who would be prepared to review the accounts on a yearly basis."*

Discussions as to the depth of accounts were discussed and agreed to be looked at again during future committee meetings, having regard to the comments made by David Scott and others. No recommendations for alternative accountants were provided at the AGM and after discussion on the variations to the present presentation of accounts; it was agreed that we retain Mr Glaholm in future if no suitable alternatives were found. This would be further considered at a General Committee meeting after consultation with Show and Working committees.

**Accounts as presented were proposed accepted by Wendy Williams and seconded by Colin Maddison. This was carried unanimously and Jill was thanked for her work on the accounts.**

**7. Field Trial and Working Test Secretaries Reports – Colin Maddison and Fiona Maclean**

**Field Trials:** Colin informed the meeting that Field Trials had been very well supported by members with excellent entry numbers. It was unfortunate that Wemmergill Novice trial had been cancelled due to low bird counts but the estate had already offered a date for the 2014 trial, which is now scheduled – dependant on bird availability, as with all trials.

The new walkie talkies were put to good use at the events and were a great asset to the running of the days. The weather was not particularly kind to us throughout the season but the success of the trials was not affected.

The lack of helpers at trials was considered and Colin thanked Ian Palmer for being at every trial to game carry and assist wherever he could. More committee and club members are urged to get involved to help at trials as without good levels of assistance the days can be difficult.

Appreciation was given to the landowners who provide such wonderful venues for our events and all had been thanked personally and officially. All were very happy for us to return in 2014. Thanks also to our sponsors SKINNER'S who continue to provide the club with excellent support for working events and for which we are extremely grateful.

**Working Tests:** Fiona had taken on the role of "Acting" Working Test Secretary during 2013 and provided details of the success of the various tests. Whilst numbers of young handlers were low for their first event in 2013; (which the club had hosted following member comments) the test at Leadhill House which also hosted the Novice Dog Novice Handler category, had proved extremely successful in monetary, membership and enjoyment terms. Fiona hoped that the club would continue to offer these categories, (which Steve McDermott confirmed he intended to do and had announced this at the recent Shotley Bridge test).

Most of the tests had made small profits but it was apparent that the stand alone opens were the least attended in terms of entries, raffle revenue and helpers. There had also been some unfounded criticism at one open test and Fiona wished to stress the need for committee members to work together to get the job done for the good of the club and its members.

**8. Show Secretary's Report: Kay Jenkins**

*"Hello everyone. We had another successful year in terms of entries, income and fun! This was our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and as such we decided to push the boat out and celebrate in style.*

*The eye test and open show were held at Bowburn Community Centre and both were very well attended and made a small profit.*

*The Championship Show was held at a new venue; Kirkley Hall in Ponteland; a 17<sup>th</sup> century grade 2 listed building. Ours was the first dog show to be held at Kirkley Hall and we had slight concerns as there was a wedding held on the same day but fortunately it proved to be a huge success.*

*The hall was beautifully decorated with flowers/bunting and banners with lots of displays including a CC tree with the names of past winners; and history boards with photographic memories.*

*These were very well received and a great talking point, as were the lovely handmade Labrador biscuits which were given to every entrant. We received lots of positive feedback about the venue, as well as numerous accolades and thanks for the fun – and the memories.*

*I am sure the 2013 Champ Show will be very hard to follow so committee members put your thinking caps on now..... Thank you all for your continued support, without which we would not be able to hold such great events.*

*A final word: we have vacancies on the Show committee; so if you have an interest in the show side of the Club or just like having fun with like minded people, please consider joining this committee to help us continue providing events like this.”*

Discussion took place on the new venue and Kay was happy to report that the cost of the venue was significantly less than the old one, as they were conscious of the need to cut costs wherever possible.

## 9. Club Representative Annual Reports for 2013.

### a) and b) Breed Council and Breed Health – Lynda Heron

Lynda wanted to outline the importance of the Breed Council to all members regarding breeding and advised of the propositions that N&D had taken a lead on with Breed Council and the subsequent input thereafter to the Kennel Clubs' procedures.

#### **Proposal 1**

We propose that Elbow Scoring be moved from “recommended” to “required” on the Assured Breeder Scheme list of Health Tests.

*Note: This would restore this test to the position of several years ago and can only be a contribution to the improvement of the breed*

#### **Proposal 2**

We propose that, in any mating, Assured Breeder Scheme members will be required to ensure that one parent is DNA tested clear for PRCD1 or one parent is hereditarily clear for PRCD1

*Note: PRCD1 testing has been available for over 10 years and we consider this proposal would now ensure that blindness from this debilitating disease, to have become a condition of the past*

#### **Proposal 3**

We propose that the Kennel Club record SD2 (Skeletal Dwarfism) results.

*Note: SD2 is a serious problem primarily in working lines and it is believed that the identified gene is more widespread than initially thought. Publication of results and availability of information regarding tested dogs may help people who wish to breed away from the problem, to do so*

#### **Proposal 4**

We propose that Labrador Breed Council adopt a standard group of health tests. If a dog or bitch or both parents of a litter meet the criteria set, then breed club members could claim, for the individual or litter that **“I am a member of xxxxx Labrador Breed Club and this dog/bitch/litter meets Labrador Breed Council Health Testing Standards”**. We consider this would a tool to help puppy buyers, easily identify responsible and caring breeders

- If adopted by Labrador Breed Council, then we consider it would be possible to develop a simple logo followed by name of Breed Club.

- The logo and statement would become known as a quality standard approved by Labrador Breed Council
- Anyone claiming this status or using the logo must be a member of a Breed Club
- Members of Breed Clubs could use the logo/statement when advertising stud dogs, bitches and litters
- This will discourage misleading statements such as ‘fully health tested’
- This proposal does not identify what these tests should be and this should be for discussion by Labrador Breed Council

**FOR DISCUSSION** - The list of standard health tests could be:

**Stud Dogs and Breeding Bitches:**

- Hip score below breed average
- Clear elbows
- Current clear eye certificate
- One parent tested for PRCD1 or hereditarily clear for PRCD1

**Litters:**

- Both parents meet the above criteria

**Proposal 5**

We propose a review of Labrador Breed Council Constitution and Judges Lists

*Note:*

- Judges who may not be judging regularly should be contacted and asked if they are still happy to accept appointments*
- These items appear to have been updated almost ten years ago*

Further discussion then took place on the fact that the club now provided a very comprehensive section in the website to further assist new Labrador owners through the minefield of choosing the correct puppy, stud dog or litter. The meeting welcomed the initiatives and were happy that N&D were playing an active role in breed issues.

c) **Field Trial Liaison Representatives report** – Samantha Whyte

Samantha Whyte was the Clubs’ KC representative and she had not provided a specific report this year due to her having a baby and being very busy. However Sam had expressed her willingness to continue to stand as N&D’s Liaison and N&D were more than happy to retain Sam as their representative. **(This was unanimously agreed)**

10. **Education/Events programme**

This programme encompassed all areas of the club membership. Lynda outlined that as per the Agenda; in 2013 the working side of the club had hosted the local Inter-Club working test at Powburn at which N&D were worthy winners. Attending member spectators had enjoyed the experience.

In 2014 it had already been proposed that the club host a Gundog working test certificate event; and this was in the process of being finalised.

In 2015 the bursary provided for the programme was to be utilised for non-competition dogs/owner events. No ideas were forthcoming at the meeting and it was agreed that a suitable event would be organised/looked at with all ideas being welcomed.

#### 11. Honoraria

It had been proposed that the honoraria for the WTS and FTS be increased by £75 each. Colin requested that he receive an additional payment towards his phone bill and petrol costs for the 2013 season. Kira Leith-Ross proposed allowing the additional payment and this was seconded by Steven McDermott. **The meeting voted to agree the additional payment.**

Clarification of the honoraria of the WTS and FTS were discussed at length and comparisons with similar local clubs taken into account and the difficulty in finding people willing to take on such positions. The outcome provided three proposals for the meeting to vote upon:

- i) No change
- ii) Increase by £75
- iii) Increase by £75 with the provision that unexpected additional receipted expenses would be considered by the General Committee prior to the next AGM on a year by year basis.

**The proposals were voted upon resulting in proposition iii) being agreed.**

Jill Dickson asked that it be minuted that any additional costs must be receipted and are not seen as an automatic entitlement of the role.

- b) All other honoraria to remain the same. **(Unanimously agreed)**

#### 12. Election of Officers

The election of officers as listed in the Agenda were proposed by the Chair and seconded by Colin Maddison; to be elected en bloc. **The proposition was unanimously agreed.**

#### 13. Election of Committees, Breed Council, Breed Health and Field Trial Representatives

The nominations for the committees were read out and acceptance proposed by Anne Beckley and seconded by Kay Jenkins. **This was agreed unanimously, as were the representatives to Breed Council, Breed Health and Field Trial Representative.**

Subsequently this means there are 3 vacancies on the Show Committee, 2 vacancies on the General Committee and 1 on the Field Trial Committee. The new committee list will be updated on the club website shortly.

Should any member feel they would like to be more involved with their club and join the committees; please contact the club to discuss further.

#### 14. Election of Auditors

Jill had previously mentioned in her address that our current accountant Mr Glaholm had advised the club that due to the depth of the clubs accounting procedures, he would have to begin charging for his time at a discounted rate of 50%.

Discussion ensued as to whether such depth was required and it was agreed that Jill would discuss further with Mr Glaholm ways in which his costs could be reduced without losing the transparency of the full accounts.

It was proposed by Anne Beckley that unless a more suitable alternative could be found, the club agree to retain the services of Mr Glaholm. This was seconded by Lynda Thompson and **agreed unanimously.**

15. **Proposals by members:**

- a) That a lecture regarding the breed takes place following by the 2015 AGM (the event to take place on either a Saturday or Sunday and to include lunch).

Discussion ensued and it was felt that as the AGM would be in April or May; this would be during the working test season (where events are held on Sundays) and would therefore be difficult to schedule or attend for working members and officers.

Bill Lambell felt that if people wanted to attend the AGM they would and he stated there should be no need to put on lunch to enhance attendance and therefore proposed the AGM details remain the same. **This was unanimously agreed and the proposal was rejected.**

- b) **That Mrs Judith Charlton and Mr Leslie Brabban and Mrs Joyce Brabban be awarded Honorary Life membership.**

Lynda outlined the reasons for the proposal and discussion briefly ensued and voted upon which resulted in the **proposal being accepted.**

16. **Rules and Regulations Annual Review**

It was proposed that the rules be altered to include the role of the Working Test Secretary. **This was agreed unanimously.** Jill Dickson discussed difficulties with cheque signatory changes that follow a change in officers and it was proposed that a change to signatories be agreed whereby two committee members could be signatories also. **The proposal was seconded by Wendy Wilson and unanimously agreed.**

17. **Any other business**

Fiona Maclean advised the meeting that we had been asked to provide a stand/scurry at this year's Northumberland County Show on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Lynda said we had an offer of help from Sara Jackson MRCVS. Fiona asked for volunteers to help with the day and also to visit the site with her prior to the event to help plan the day.

Joanne McDonald also advised members that she intended manning a club stand at Yorkshire Game Fair, Newby Hall within a marquee housing different breeds of working dogs. Jo asked if anyone had a few hours to spare to give her a break during the Fair, it would be appreciated.

Dave Scott advised that he would be prepared to organise a couple of gundog training days for members with profits made going towards the running of working events throughout the year.

The meeting welcomed the initiative and it was hoped that during the planning stages, a selection of training aids (dummies, leads etc.) could be stocked for sale at the events.

Members thanked the Chair and the meeting ended at 9.08pm.