



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom
at 7pm on Thursday 21st April 2022

1. To record those present and apologies for absence.

Kathy Connor, Coshy Kimberley, Sheila Kuban, Will Tyler, Sarah Gale, Tracy Boyles, Steve Kimberley, Jon Gallant, Rob Gould, Frances Smart, Sean Connor, Linsey Whitley, Howard Kirby, Annie Jones, Theo Gould
Apologies had been received from or were tendered in respect of Steve Farr, Rod Smart, Fleur Fillingham, Deb Bowns, Jo Gosling, Dennis Tuck, Tristan Gale, Chris Hartnoll

2. Approve minutes of 10.04.21 – Steve proposed, Jon Gallant seconded
3. Matters arising from previous meeting:
 - a) AOB – banking: a historical note made by Eileen this point was confirmed as having been completed.
 - b) Kathy Connor, Secretary, advised the meeting that the Kennel club has only just approval and ratified the AGM/SGM requests and thus our code of ethics can be amended as agreed. The Kennel Club has advised a wording update relating to bitches mating and registration of litters and it is noted that clause 18 should be amended to the following: “The Kennel Club states that a bitch should not be allowed to have more than 4 litters during her lifetime and will not normally register more than 4 litters to a bitch during her lifetime.”
 - c) Rob Gould questioned the Secretary regarding a lower and upper mating/whelping age limit and the Secretary confirmed that the Kennel Club had not suggested any other wording amendment save that stated. Some discussion followed in respect of age of whelp and mating and the Secretary suggested Rob take a look at the updated rules and code of ethics on the new website and come back to the Secretary if there is an issue.
4. To receive the Chairmans Report, including reports from the Field Trial Secretary, Honorary Show Secretary, Breed Education Co-Ordinator and Breed Health Co-Ordinator.
 - a) Kathy Connor stated that she had sent all relevant reports to the group to save on meeting time and asked if these had been read. The Secretary thanked the committee for all the hard work in co-ordinating the Club’s events. All agreed they have received the reports and are happy with them.
Proposed by Jon Gallant, seconded by Kathy Connor.
5. To receive the Honorary Secretary’s Report proposed by Howard Kirby, seconded by Shirley Farr.
6. To receive and adopt the Accounts for the previous year and to receive the Honorary Treasurer’s report (including accounts) proposed by Howard Kirby and seconded Shirley Farr – agreed adopted unanimously.
7. To Elect committee members

The following was agreed as no other nominations have been received:

- Steven Kimberley – re-election, proposed by Coshy Kimberley, seconded Jon Gallant
- Coshy Kimberley – re-election, proposed by Jon Gallant, seconded Theo Gould
- Jon Gallant – re-election, proposed by Steve Kimberley, seconded by Frances Smart
- Theo Gould – re-election, proposed by Kathy Connor seconded by Jon Gallant

No form of ballot necessary as all are members of the club.

8. Review subscriptions

The group discussed the question “Does the club keep subscription fees as they are or does it raise the subscription?”, the following comments, suggestions and observations from the meeting were noted:

Suggestion that it is kept in-line with the costs required to run the club to the highest possible standard and offering the best possible service to its members.

- Other clubs’ subscriptions vary between £4-£20 and since is some time since the club has increased the subscription fee now was perhaps a good time. The club has approx. 200 members and it was suggested that subs should be raised by £1.50 as the club is now in a different place thanks to all the hard work carried out by the new committee.
- Rob Gould asked if the club can we assess its value for money to the members and what is being done to maintain the pre-eminence of the breed and the events on offer in order to increase the number of working long-hairs? A discussion followed with the following points of note, most people join the club as an associate member in order to gain preference at Field Trial and Spring Pointing Tests, importance is attached to being consistent in what the club offers to its membership, it was noted that the sound professional level which is the current gold standard being ultimately the most important thing. It was suggested that other clubs are bombarding people with events and things to do with their dogs and the committee has some concern regarding the saturation point on social media which in turn has caused the committee to be cautious about overwhelming its members with event notices; as a new committee in its second season, the aim should be to keep our offer clear and professional. With one pop up training day under its belt already, the club has more planned and with the bird-flu issue the committee doesn’t know how this will play out or how it will affect costs.
- In answer to Rob’s question about value for money, Frances Smart stated that the club has so far offered 5 field trials, 2 training days, 3 spring pointing tests and the open show all of which are areas where members receive a discount on entry fees and show fee (full members only.) If the club were to raise its subscription from £10 to £12 this might not be too onerous for members.
- Subscriptions are currently £10 for single and £15 for joint subscription (full overseas and associates).
- It would be great for the club to have an increase in annual revenue to enable it to put on additional events which might be loss leaders and for expenses etc for judges/trainers to cover the rising cost in travel, thus ensuring the quality of the product. The shows and the working events are of a high quality, and it would be beneficial to the club to have the facility to be better equipped financially to run these events.
- It was noted that the GLP events held offer quality, held on quality ground and we should not be shy of our offering. He suggested that there is a need to not be scared of charging for the excellence that the club offers, adding that the expertise and knowledge within the breed includes Steve Kimberley, Annie Jones, Rob, Howard and Theo Gould, and this is a really saleable package given the quality of the experienced and sought-after expertise of those delivering training days.
- A point was made that if an individual is a member of thirty or more clubs, an annual increase of small increments would not be palatable from an administrative point of view.
- Theo Gould added that to increase revenue we could either increase subscription or charge more for the training days; a response was that the committee has already increased the costs of field trails and the training and currently charge more than most for club events.
- It was also noted that if there is a gradual increase (annually) rather than a jump in subscription, people tend not to worry too much about it however, the problem tends to be when prices remain static for several years and then suddenly increase by 50%. However, Coshy noted that many members will forget to increase their standing order every year and this could be problematic for the membership secretary in chasing payment.
- Howard Kirby stated that the new committee is already proving itself to be offering the highest quality services and grounds adding that the expertise and knowledge within the club includes Steve Kimberley, Annie Jones, Rob Gould and Theo Gould and that this is a really saleable package given the superb quality of the experienced and sought-after personnel delivering training days and this should be capitalised upon. Annie Jones remarked that Howard Kirby had omitted to mention himself as a member of the club whose expertise should also be celebrated and included as a saleable commodity of the club.
- Coshy Kimberley advised that the committee has been looking at making Shirley’s job easier by introducing an automated membership system and that subscriptions will be taken via an automated system. The committee is scheduled to discuss this matter following this AGM.
- Coshy Kimberley formally proposed that Joint membership is £18 and that full, and associate membership should be £12 from October 2022 and that this rise should be reviewed again in 3 or 4 years (and not annually). Seconded by Frances Smart. A vote took place and the meeting agreed unanimously.
- For the record Howard added his thanks and appreciation to those working behind the scenes at the GLPC.

9. To Appoint Auditors

- a) Frances Smart, Treasurer, stated that the accounts had been signed off for this year and has agreed to do the same for the following year. The club has changed the wording for the declaration at the bottom of the page to correctly and legally reflect what it should be. Proposed by Sean Connor, seconded by Kathy Connor.

10. Appointment of Veterinary Surgeon

- a) Theo Gould agreed – proposed by Rob Gould, seconded by Jon Gallant.

11. Honorary life members

- a) Kathy was delighted to announce that Sheila Kuban should be offered honorary life membership of the club. Sheila noted that the Winsers should also be given honorary life membership as it was they who set up the club and gave 25 years' service, being partly responsible for the success of German Long Haired pointers in this country. Kathy Connor advised that she is also going to be writing to Eileen and David formally asking them to accept honorary life membership. Proposed by Coshy Kimberley, seconded by Jon Gallant.
- b) Sheila accepted the honorary membership with thanks!

12. Bryantscroft Trophy Award

“...to be awarded at the AGM to a member and their German Long Haired Pointer for excellence in field trials”

1 dog won all age – 25 points Annie Jones Cadanbyrig Maelstral

1 dog won all age – 25 points Steve Kimberley Wamillanghar Point Blanc of Caldera

1 dog won 3rd in open and a certificate in open equalling 25 points Frances Smart Questor Layla at Cadanbyrig

- a) Therefore, three dogs each earned 25 points. The meeting discussed how the trophy had last been awarded in 2014/15. It was suggested that the club should have all three names added to the shield of the trophy. Alternatively, a suggestion was that the club could refer to Rory Major who provided the original rules. Howard Kirby offered to pay for the names to be added. Given the size of the breed in the country and the numbers running in trials, this is an excellent result for the season, there have been some new dogs coming through and all agreed that this is very exciting.
- b) It was agreed that all three dogs should be recognised, and that Frances should receive the trophy. Kathy proposed that all three dogs are named, seconded by Sarah Gale.

Coshy thanked Kathy for all her hard work pushing the committee forward. Kathy said thank you and stated that the breed means so much to her all and we want all want the best for the breed and to see more GLPs on the ground, all were agreed it would be lovely to see more in shows and in trials. Frances stated that it would be great to have CC's for the breed. Tracy Boyles stated that the only way the breed can get CC's is to get more dogs in the show rings because the Kennel Club is going to introduce an averages system set on that basis. There will be only one set of CC's dependent on the number of dogs going to be shown. There must be 12 judges who have been through the grandfather rights to allocate CC's for the GLPs and the breed is struggling with numbers so hopefully by the time the club has done the Judges Education Day things will begin to change. People can attend the education days but only as observers unless they meet judges education level 1.

Tracy was invited to committee meeting to inform/advise re judges' education days. Tracy noted that to gain support for the shows, we should try and get members engaging with show events and educating our members. Coshy noted that the first show with GLP classes in which the last litter of puppies could compete over 6 months old is to be held in August t National Gun Dog Association and this is what we need to get this information out to our members. Shirley Farr stated that there has been so little support for the show side of the club historically that it is very important that the committee gives a big push to the show side this year and tries to get as many members as possible into showing, education of the membership is key.

There was some discussion concerning the balance between the show side and the working side and how predominantly the breed is for working, it was also discussed that the breed make phenomenal pets and are very versatile as a breed; Frances Smart stated that as well as the show side the breed should be commended for the working side and went on to say that at the England HPR International Selection day, three GLPs entered the assessment and three GLPs went through to the next selection.

Sheila raised a discussion regarding the fact that there is no distinction within the GSPs between working and showing dogs, and it was suggested that in an effort to encourage people to show their dogs that perhaps a judge could be asked at Ducklington Working Test to do a conformation assessment. Coshy agreed and suggested discussing this at the next meeting.

Sheila Kuban stated at the end of the meeting that it was the best AGM she had been to.

End of meeting at 8.08pm