

**WELWYN & HATFIELD RINGCRAFT CLUB**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**for the year ended December 2016**



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 at Ludwick Family Club, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire at 21:21.

Committee members present: Charlotte Ayres-Cousins (Chair), Tina Morris (Treasurer), Gillian Read (Secretary), Barbara Mahmoudi, Shaun Nicholls, Brian Tansley and Julie Watson. There were 10 club members present: Margarita Froome, Linda Harding, Helen Kirk, Vicky Martin, Julie Nicholls, Steph Parry, Ben Price, Cassy Razzell, Val Tansley and Jo Yerbury

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from James Castle, Patrice Jacklin, Lisa Parker, Terry Read, Paul Richardson, Lisa Rogers, Michael Rogers, Rachel Start, Laura Wiley and Marianne Wood.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Barbara Mahmoudi and seconded by Julie Nicholls and agreed by everyone present. These were signed by the Chair.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

Gillian Read reported that she had updated the Welcome Letter to reflect the changes discussed at the last AGM and also updated the costs of annual membership, weekly training fees and the new website address. She has also made a start on the FAQ document about showing which was suggested to help new members. She apologised for the delay in getting these documents done but this was due to personal circumstances. Copies of these documents were available at the meeting for anyone to read and feedback would be appreciated on both of them. It was thought that the FAQ document could be put in the new members' packs and also on our website.

**4. OFFICERS REPORTS**

**Chair** – Thank you for staying behind for our AGM. Another year passes and another Crufts, our Club did well again there, Julie and Shaun got their first ever RCC and Tina got Best Puppy in Breed. Are there any more results to share? (Several people gave their class placings and Margarita, who judged Hungarian Puli's, said her BOB went through to win Pastoral Group 2.)

Great to see some new members join and returning past members and of course our regulars which keep the Club going week by week.

We have a new website, built by our own Michael Rogers, if you get a chance take a look we would appreciate any feedback or ideas. Match nights are busy which is just what we need to ensure we cover the recent rent increase.

As always we need your support, guest trainers and new committee members but this will be discussed later. Thank you.

**Treasurer** – Last year was quite a good one. At 31st December 2016 our Current Account is £473.61 and our Business Reserve £747.44.

Classes have been pretty busy but some weeks it has been difficult to achieve the £44.00 needed to cover the hall rent. However, any shortfall has been made up by a good attendance at Match Nights and the subsequent raffle takings. We currently have 47 paid up members of the Club. There have been no complaints in the rise of annual membership fees this year.



If anyone thinks we need to purchase anything to enhance training, please let us know. After a discussion it was agreed to look at buying a new mirror and stand – one that will fit into the cupboard (although this does need clearing out again and perhaps revamping the lay-out to make storage easier). The previous mirror has disappeared and the Hall Caretaker does not know where it has gone.

**Secretary** – The Committee held 3 meetings during the year (22nd March 2016, 14th June 2016 and 1st February 2017). There was a fourth meeting scheduled for 20th September 2016 but this had to be cancelled due to lack of a quorum (we need 6 Committee members to be present for any meeting to go ahead).

Three of our Committee members (Vanessa Bryant, Belinda Castle and Jenny Watson) resigned during the year – our thanks go to them for their help during their time on Committee.

Annual Returns were sent to the Kennel Club on 23rd May 2016 and we have received acknowledgement from the KC.

The Kennel Club 'Magazine', general information and show schedules from local societies are brought to Club and put on the desk for people to read or take as required.

I would like to thank everyone that helps out now and again – be it setting up the hall for training, clearing up, making tea, training and also helping/advising newcomers to the Club. It makes for a friendly atmosphere.

#### **5. AUDITORS STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Tina Morris explained that the bill for disinfectant was high last year, she made a mistake in the order and ended up over-ordering, however, there should be no cost for disinfectant this year. We also need to start selling the ring-clips as we have about 100 of these in the cupboard, cost £1 each.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Brian Tansley and seconded by Val Tansley. This was agreed by everyone present.

#### **6. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITORS**

Tina Morris will be asked to appoint Cook & Partners, Chartered Accountants of Manufactory House, Bell Lane, Hertford to audit the accounts of the club again next year. This was proposed by Barbara Mahmoudi and seconded by Vicky Martin. This was agreed by everyone present. The Auditors do not charge a fee but we give them a gift of wine to thank them for doing our accounts.

#### **7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

The following committee members were all willing to stand again – Charlotte Ayres-Cousins, Tina Morris, Gillian Read, James Castle, Barbara Mahmoudi, Shaun Nicholls, Paul Richardson, Brian Tansley and Julie Watson. These Committee members were proposed to stay in office by Julie Nicholls and seconded by Linda Harding. All members present approved they continue in office for a further year.

Vanessa Bryant, Belinda Castle and Jenny Watson resigned during the year.

We had 1 nomination for a new Committee member: Vicky Martin (proposed by Julie Nicholls and seconded by Michael Rogers) – all members present voted Vicky join the Committee forthwith. Charlotte Ayres- Cousins welcomed Vicky to Committee and hoped she enjoys her time with us.



As we still have 2 vacancies please give some thought to either joining Committee or suggesting someone who would be able/willing to join Committee.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Steph Parry and Pete Kiernan regularly help out with training for which we give them our thanks but we still need other people to help out occasionally. Margarita Froome said she was willing to go on the rota – Gillian Read will talk to her about scheduling some training slots. If anyone else would like to take a turn please speak to Charlotte Ayres-Cousins.
- Jo Yerbury asked why we did not have any points awarded to Reserve Best of Breed for breeds without CC's at Champ Shows on our Annual Show Awards points sheet. The points sheet has been in use for many years and this should be looked at and updated if necessary. Val Tansley asked if there could be points awarded for Best Veteran. The points sheet will be discussed at the next Committee meeting and any changes will be communicated to members. Jo asked what date the points could be calculated from. Gillian Read informed her that points obtained from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 30<sup>th</sup> November could be submitted for that year's Awards. This was to give her a couple of weeks to collate the points from everyone so the Awards could be made at the End of Year Match. Points in December could still be claimed but only for the following year's Awards.
- Barbara Mahmoudi requested that some new mops are purchased and Jo Yerbury asked if more cups could be purchased. Tina Morris will take care of this.
- Training nights were discussed and it was agreed to occasionally do a 'mini' show to help new people learn what is required. A rosette could also be given that night for the person who 'handled' their dog the best (but not a formal handling class). It was also suggested to occasionally move the mats to the middle of the hall at the end of training so people could practice moving dogs side by side or even running dogs in brace. Some people also wanted to do more weaving in and out of other 'standing' dogs. Trainers should move around more during training to teach people to keep an eye on the judge and change their position accordingly when moving their dog. Another suggestion was to occasionally have the dogs moved at a walking pace rather than running as some judges have started to do this at shows. As there were a lot of suggestions for things to practice on training nights, Jo Yerbury said she would have a go at putting a training format together for the Club. It was felt this would break things up and give people something different to do.
- Linda Harding asked if we could take a short time at the beginning when all the dogs are on the floor to see how people had done at shows the previous weekend. It was agreed to try this out and see how it goes. Tina Morris reminded everyone to bring in their rosettes and cakes when they had done well and we could give them a cheer at the beginning of the evening.
- It was agreed to reinstate the 'Improved Handler of the Month' award from April. Tina Morris will ensure a rosette is available each month.

## **9. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed at 21:54.