

BORDER COLLIE BREED COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ

on

19th July 2014

The Border Collie Breed Council held a meeting on Saturday 19th July 2014 at Stoneleigh Park Hotel, Warwickshire. The meeting was opened at 11:10 by the Chairman Mr Bob Tunnicliff.

Welcome: The chairman welcomed all clubs present.

Apologies: Apologies received from the secretary Marion Turner and from Southern BCC.

Clubs present were EABCC (Lyn Norton), Midland BCC (Kathie Kinton), BCCGB (Annette Walters), NEBCC (Chris Grant), WofE BCC (Judith Gregory & Ali Chainey), Wessex BCC (Valerie Hawker & Lindsey Bridges)

Note 1 - Lindsey Bridges arrived late and joined the meeting during the discussion on 'Allocation of CC's'.

Note 2 - Apologies from Wales BCC (Ross Green) were sent via text message to Bob Tunnicliff at 11:30am but was only seen once the meeting had ended.

Minutes of the Last meeting:

Note 3 - Although the minutes of the previous meeting were discussed at length, at no point were they voted as correct and seconded as correct. This will have to be done at the next meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Page 1

- **Unverified dogs:** No club had as yet requested a pack from the KC - Clubs were reminded to do so.
- **WKC judging:** JR had spoken to the lady in question and she was not aware of the upset she had caused. This matter is now closed.
- **AOB:** Confusion from overseas exhibitors over the qualification for the Show Border Collie Herding Test Class at Crufts - BT had spoken to Fossedata and they said the KC provided them with the class classification. Need to ask the KC for details.

Page 2

- **Secretary report:** AC proposed that the Yahoo Secretaries group be restarted as some reps do not spend sufficient time on Facebook and important issues were being missed. LN volunteered to start it up again and make sure that members were up to date, sending invitations to those not yet on it. AC agreed to be a moderator. The Facebook group will remain but anything posted to the group must be posted to the Yahoo group. KK asked that Hilary Kerr be added to the Yahoo group as she is secretary of the PBHF. Seconded by BCCGB and EABCC.
- **Treasurer Report:** LN asked why we had to change bank account? VH explained that she had tried for over 6 months to get Lloyds to change the officers of the account. They said they needed personal details from the other officers (BT and MT) which they should have had on file but couldn't find. Both BT and MT went to the bank to provide copies of their passports and utility accounts but that information was lost. Eventually the Breed Council took the decision to apply for a new account at another bank. As per the constitution, we have 3 signatories and no online banking.
- **Colours in France:** AC said that their policies had nothing to do with us.

Chairmans's Report:

- **Encouraging attendance:** Bit of confusion as to whether or not **RG** was still representing BCC Wales. We need to write to the clubs to tell them that they could nominate a person to represent them at the meetings (NWBC, Wales, Scotland and Southern BCC).
- **BT** said we are **not achieving enough** by only having 2 meetings a year. Suggest that we have the Breed Council meeting and the PBHF meetings on the same day - start the Breed Council meeting early 9am, break for lunch, followed by the PBHF meeting. **KK** is not prepared to come to a meeting starting at 9am - **BT** said **KK** only had to come to the afternoon meeting. **JG** asked what **BT** would like to achieve - **BT** would like the correspondence from the KC coming back to us to discuss at a meeting as secretary has several letters and she hasn't had any answers yet and she's had them for months. **BT** says that only 2 meetings a year doesn't allow us to make any progress. **AC** suggested the Breed Council needs to "shape up" as well and not let things ride - **BT** said we need to ring up and speak to someone at the KC but **KK** said that she had good response to her emails. **AC** said that conversations get mis-interpreted and you need things in writing. **JG** said the the purpose of the Breed Council was to share ideas, ask people to solve different problems. She didn't know if there was anything that important that we need to change at the KC. **VH** said that there were a few issues on this agenda that would need to be sent to the KC. Discussion as to how club committees could respond sooner and **LN** said that their club had a committee group on Facebook where they discussed various issues. **VH** said that Wessex also had a committee group for discussing issues. **LN** asked does Marion wait for breed council to say "please chase it up" or does she take the bull by the horns? **BT** says last thing we discussed went backwards and forwards on a daily/weekly basis to the KC.

Secretary's report:

VH read out the secretary's report provided by **MT** - "apologies due to personal circumstances **MT** unable to attend. The returns have gone off to the KC with the up to date judging lists. **MT** has had several requests from champ show secretaries for the judging lists. Reminder that items for the agenda must come to the secretary via a club 21 days before the meeting."

Treasurer's report:

VH presented the clubs accounts.

AC questioned the amount paid for web hosting. **VH** said it was the only invoice from **RG** for webhosting and updates that she had received since being treasurer. There was a problem with the website - if you google the Breed Council and click on certain links which are still connected to the Arrogare domain, it brings up an old site with out of date information which might be why people are saying the judges lists and officers of member clubs are out of date. **BT** said we would discuss further in AOB. **AC** said it needs to be discussed as an agenda item at the next meeting. **VH** said NWBC is the only member club with subscriptions outstanding. **BT** said that they usually paid their subs at their Championship show.

The bank balance at 19th July 2014 stands at **£2660.07** of which **£1450.00** is held as a contingency fund.

BORDER COLLIE BREED COUNCIL ACCOUNTS				
as at 19th July 2014				
Opening bank balance				2,745.07
Expenses paid 15/03/2014 to 19/07/2014				(135.00)
March meeting expenses	#00001	(20.00)		
March meeting expenses	#00002	(40.00)		
Arrogare web hosting	#00003	(75.00)		
Income received:				50.00
Annual club subscriptions received:				
Subscription: Scottish BCC		50.00		
Bank balance as at 19th July 2014				2,660.07
Contingency Fund				(1,450.00)
Breed Council Cash available (as at 19th July 2014)				1,210.07
Club subscriptions due for 2014				50.00
North West BCC		50.00		
Total funds excluding contingency fund, including expected income				1,260.07

AGENDA ITEMS: **LN** asked if the secretary could please note which club had raised the agenda item for future agendas.

Working Class at Crufts: (Wessex)

This item was raised by a Wessex committee member together with support from owners of working dogs. They would like another class at Crufts, (like the Working Class at some Breed Club championship shows) for working dogs. Proposal is not to remove classes that are there, but would like to show-case what they consider quality dogs which also work. Dogs would need to qualify 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the sport that they belong to as well as qualifying in the usual way for Crufts. **LN** asked if this would be a qualification acquired at championship shows only or at open shows? **VH** said if you only allow championship shows, you are ruling out a lot of dogs. Suggestion was that you would have to qualify in the usual way at a breed championship show and have the option (if qualified 1st, 2nd or 3rd) of entering the working class. **JG** said it makes sense to alter the qualification of the Working Class rather than adding a new class, as its a long day. Altering the qualification of the working class to include the other disciplines would make sense. **AW** said it used to be Working Trials and Obedience, but this was changed when they added the class for Herding. **BT** said that the Working Class changed before the introduction of the Herding class. He said that the proposal needs rewriting, to clarify how the dogs would qualify. All levels of sports need to be listed. **BT** said the proposal should be either/or - Working Class amended or new Working Class. Breed Council will need to have particulars before giving their approval. **AW** said she didn't have to qualify her Obedience champion in the usual way but she could enter Crufts Working Trials class. Champions of all disciplines would not have to qualify for Crufts but could enter the Working Class. **KK** said that when it included Obedience, the obedience champions had to qualify in the usual way. **AC** said we should look at the class classification of some of the Gun

Dog championship shows. **KK** said that combining our proposal with the current Working Trials class would mean that dogs could qualify differently. **BT** said champions of all disciplines should not have to qualify. **KK** asked if we can do an off-meeting approval or would this have to wait for the next meeting. **LN** said she didn't see the problem in taking a vote on the initial idea: subject to clarification of qualification the Breed Council is happy to support the request.

Pink Slips: (Wessex)

Proposal that Pink Slips should be sent to the Breed Council for completing.

Wessex has been receiving a number of Pink Slips but does not have any A list judges on their committee. The concern is that filling in the forms and returning them are not only a waste of time, but are a wasted vote. **KK** said that the KC does not know the number of ticket judges on a clubs committee so they send out by rota. If the votes in their opinion are not valid then they will go on the ones they have, and if that ends up being none, it could mean that the forms are send out again or they make their decision on what information they have. **CG** said that NEBCC has only 1 A list judge on their committee as well. **BT** says KC require 75% of people voting to give tickets. **JG** said that a way around the problem was for the club to form a sub committee where A list judges are asked to vote on the clubs behalf. **VH** said setting up a sub committee meant co-opting onto the committee, but **JG** said that was not the case, but they should be club members. **AC** said that our constitution says that the breed council does not have the power to make decisions for member clubs so the Pink Slips cannot come back to the Breed Council.

FOR: Wessex, Midland BCC.

AGAINST: BCCGB, NEBCC, WofE, EABCC

Proposal rejected.

Allocation of CC's: (Wessex)

Proposal that Breed Clubs should be given priority for allocation of tickets should a set become available.

Wessex would like to host a championship show and has put in the application for championship status for 2017. There are 36 pairs of tickets available for our breed. The KC are not giving any more but at this point, despite having dropped to Band D, they are not taking any away. **CG** said that NEBCC have submitted an application every year and have been turned down every year. The KC reserves 5 sets of tickets for Crufts, SKC, WKC, Birmingham National and NW&PB. There are currently 8 breed clubs who are allocated tickets and the rest go to general championship shows.

LN and **JG** agreed that if any ticket should become available breed clubs should receive them. **KK** said we must be careful because if we ask for all breed clubs to receive tickets and there aren't enough tickets to go round, then they will be rotated around the clubs, as happened with German Shepherds and Belgium Shepherds. **BT** said that we are bound to loose tickets in the future. **VH** asked why/how tickets could be lost. **AC** suggested poor administration, after receiving warnings over the years and not complying, or from clubs/societies closing down. **JG** said ticket allocation are considered geographically. **LB** said it seems as if general championship shows get priority over the breed clubs. **CG** and **VH** would hate to see other clubs losing tickets, do not want this to happen. **KK** said nothing to stop us saying we'd like 2 general championship shows to loose their tickets. **CG** said breed shows should have priority if tickets become available as he feels they would draw more entries than some of the general championship shows. **JG** doesn't support taking tickets off general championship shows but would support giving breed clubs priority.

Proposal to write to the KC to with regard to ticket allocation saying the Breed Club requests -

"No breed club should loose their ticket allocation but should any other set become available by general championship shows losing their allocation or ceasing to function, then breed clubs without tickets should be given priority for the allocation of tickets that become available".

FOR: Wessex, Midland BCC, BCCGB, NEBCC, WofE, EABCC

AGAINST: none

Proposal approved unanimously.

Clarification of Breed Rep: (BCCGB)

BCCGB asked for clarification of our Breed Rep on the KC Breed Council as the Red Book does not list anyone for our breed. **JG** said that she had been our breed representative for the past 10 years and does not know why she has not been put in the Red Book. She wrote a letter to the KC on 15th July 2014 asking to be listed in the Red Book and she has spoken to Meg and Sue Samson, when reassessed as an Assured Breeder, about it. There are 4 Liaison Officers for the Pastoral Group of which Stella Clarke is one. Information is sent via the Breed Rep to the KC Liaison Officers. **JG** said that she would like to find out how to become a Liaison Officer. **JG** to find out who the other Liaison Officers are.

Combined judging lists: (BCCGB)

BCCGB said that the Combined Judging Lists on the Breed Council website is not up to date and lists names of people who have passed away. **VH** explained that it was difficult, or impossible, for her to know who had died and who should be removed from judging lists unless club secretaries contacted her with the information. The lists are kept as up to date as possible with copies on Facebook and on the Breed Council Website. Midland BCC, BCCGB, Wessex, WofE, Southern BCC had submitted updated lists as of June 2014. EABCC, NEBCC and Wales BCC had yet to submit updated lists. **VH** has never received NWBCC or Scottish BCC judging lists. Anita Gowing, secretary of BCCGB has emailed **VH** with details of deceased judges and the lists have been updated. **JG** asked if clubs have the right to remove someone from their judging list because they feel they are not good enough. **LN** said YES as the judging criteria states that they have to have the support of the club on which they are or want to be listed. **VH** will send a note to all club secretaries to explain that removals/deletions from a clubs list must be emailed/messaged to her so that the combined judging list can be updated.

Pink Slips: (BCCGB)

This agenda item was raised by BCCGB - it was discussed earlier and needed no more discussion.

PBHF report/update: (PBHF Health Rep)

- **KC General Breed Health Questionnaire:** Looking for our comments on the questionnaire, does it work, is it good, is there anything that we wish to change? Which questions don't you want, which wants do you want to see? The questionnaire will be sent out to all breeds at the end of the year. **JG** started reading out the questions. **VH** asked who this questionnaire is aimed at. KC is going to send it out to as many outlets as possible: - pet people, breeders, breed council. The KC just want to gather as much information as possible, it will not be used for marking purposes. **AC** said the KC had all our details from our registrations already. **KK** said she thinks it will go out at Crufts for the public to fill in. **AC** said there were some very technical questions for the public. **AC** said it seems to be aimed at high profile breeds. **KK** said if we don't give any input then we will get whatever the KC decide on. **LB** said its not really relevant to our breed. **BT** proposed it was "Too long winded, too invasive and the KC have all the information anyway".

All were in favour.

- **B12 DNA test:** Licensed by Animal DNA. Midland BCC open day (21st September 2014) has agreed to do a clinic to collect swabs for B12 testing. BCCGB have also offered to run a clinic. B12 has exactly the same mode of inheritance as TNS, CEA and CL so results will be either "affected", "carrier" or "non-carrier". There is a discounted price from Animal Diagnostics. Postal swabs will be offered as well. This is the first time a clinic will be held in the UK and it will give us a good indication of the problem in the breed. Results in America are showing that they have a problem with this. Proposal is to send all the B12 test results straight from the laboratory to the KC and they will be recorded and will appear on registration papers. KC will consider this as long as its a recognised lab, but they will only agree to this proposal if it comes via the breed council. **BT** said all the clubs would probably be in favour, but **VH** said she had asked Wessex committee about this and the majority did not want this - reasons given: did not think that there was sufficient evidence of B12 deficiency in border collies, unverified samples as it is done via

swabs, increase in number of tests needing to be done, people will expect puppies and/or studs to be tested. **KK** said that there are indications that B12 deficiency could be linked to fitting. Symptoms of B12 deficiency are not dissimilar to TNS, head can be misshapen, puppies don't thrive, often die very young, but can survive a bit longer. B12 is not a treatable condition, it is *malabsorption* of B12, not B12 *deficiency*. **VH** said that the secretary had asked her to remind the breed council that for any item to be voted on, it had to be brought to the council via a breed club (as per our constitution). **KK** said that anything that came from her as Breed Council Health representative was acceptable. EABCC said they would bring it to the council on behalf of the PBHF. **KK** said all the information regarding B12 is on facebook's Breed Council group and the PBHF group. **KK** said Hilary asked about MDR1 being recorded but **KK** agrees that there doesn't seem to be enough affected dogs. **AC** said that some people did not fully understand the MDR1 test results. **KK** said that the results are explained at the bottom of the test and she would write up something for Yahoo/Facebook to explain the meaning of the results. **BT** asked breed clubs to discuss the issue of automatically recording B12 results on the KC database and to vote at the next meeting.

- **Glaucoma Research update:** James Oliver of the AHT has made an offer (BCCGB have accepted) to have a clinic to review the status at the moment of dogs that have already been tested. To be held in conjunction with BCCGB's open show on 25th October 2014. He is particularly interested in dogs over 7 years of age that have 'failed' previous tests. James said that they have noticed a deterioration in the 5 other breeds that they are working on. If they have a grade 3 fail, they are now showing as grade 4 or 5. Ian and Stewart were not seeing this in our breed. Only one went up a grade. **JG** said that several went down. **AC** said some changed status. Kim, James, Catherine and Lindsey are willing to come to the BCCGB clinic and test up to 50 dogs on the day and/or retest. There will be no charge for testing but there will be no BVA paperwork. If someone has a dog not previously tested and wants BVA paperwork, they will have to pay the full test price. **BT** said he did not trust the AHT. **KK** said they have agreed in writing that Kim will lead on the data/research. **BT** said that what they are saying is that the testing that's been done in the past hasn't been very accurate. **KK** said they don't know, that's why we have to be careful how we word the invitation for the clinic. **JG** asked how can the test be accurate as it is subjective? **KK** said everything at this clinic will be done by one person and you will get a verbal report and there will be a pressure test, which was never done before. **BT** said that pressure testing can do damage. **KK** said no, its the other way round, Ian said the one we wanted to do originally wasn't the right test. **AC** said WofE had eye testing regularly all done by one person, so what is the difference this time? **KK** said the advantage was they could swab the dogs for DNA at the same time. James can also do the pressure test which has not been done before. AHT said there were a lot of border collies loosing eyes that we don't hear about. They cannot give us details as they don't keep records and the departments don't talk to each other. **AC** said we have only ever tested for the predisposition for condition, we knew all along it was a degenerative condition. Ian Mason maintains that border collies aren't getting any worse, yet James Oliver says that we need to test again to prove this as he thinks they are. **LN** asked if the dogs that are loosing eyes are working or breed? **AW** said we haven't heard on social media about dogs loosing eyes. **AC** and **BT** think that the AHT is trying to stir things up unnecessarily. **AC** asked if the AHT are angling for making more money. **KK** said for the commercial test maybe but for the research no as they have had thousands of pounds given to them and so has Kim and for once money isn't a problem. **AC** and **LN** said as there were no statistics, so how can anyone know that there is a problem in border collies. **AW** said that most breeders have a good relationship with their vets and would expect to hear from the vets if there were articles on problems with border collies and she has heard nothing. **KK** has asked for statistics from the BVA. She is trying to get last year's figures, and has written to Sandra but this topic is for the PBHF meeting. **BT** asked the benefit of this clinic for Kim? **KK** said it would help Kim in her research. **KK** says doesn't matter how many times Kim tries to contact Ian Mason to explain the difference between the grades, advice on which grade to concentrate on, but he had not been helpful. The advantages of this clinic is that Kim will be able to work with an eye specialist and will be able to collect DNA swabs where needed. **KK** said some Australian breeders were becoming very difficult when asked to provide DNA samples and **JG** said that its

not surprising as they keep getting asked. When Alan Wilton died, the university destroyed all dog samples, and his fiance managed to save only some of the samples. **LN** said that James Oliver is an unknown quantity and doesn't want to put her clubs name to anything until she was sure of his qualifications. **KK** said James Oliver is a BVA eye panelist and he will do the eye tests. Catherine will be taking swabs, and that the majority will be new dogs, she expects at most 10 previously failed dogs to attend. BCCGB are funding the clinic, they have paid for a separate room at their open show, so no expense to the PBHF. **BT** asked if all the dogs had to be microchipped and **KK** said they would not issue a BVA certificate if they were not. **KK** said no other eye testing would be available, puppies would have to be over 4 months to be tested. **AC** wants to know what audience we are aiming at as majority of people attending breed club events would already have been tested. **AC** asked are we trying to reach an audience that are not show go'ers? **AW** said facebook was the best place to advertise, dog papers are breed people, facebooks covers everyone. The KC will put it out for us as well. **LB** said that you could end up with dogs registered on the activity register and not KC registered. **BT** said it must be stated that they have to be KC registered or ISDS. **KK** said she didn't know if the AHT's statement about bc's loosing eyes were registered bc's or just any black and white pet that looked like a bc. **BT** said that the AHT shouldn't be making statements about dogs loosing eyes until they can give us some proof. **BT** offered to write a letter to the AHT to ask them to be more professional and scientific. **KK** said that should be decided at a PBHF meeting. **KK** wants to know how to word the invitation for this special clinic - she does not want people to doubt their test results. "Free eye test but must be willing to have swab taken". They are deliberately NOT inviting specific dogs, but are looking for dogs over 7 years old that have failed, or anything that has been tested a couple of years ago, just to see whether or not their eyes have changed. James has already been told he won't get Vinnie, but there are a few affected ones that people will bring. **JG** said she thought **KK** was able to write it up herself. **KK** said Hilary Kerr will write it up as secretary of PBHF. **JG** does not want anything put out about so many dogs are having their eyes out. **BT** said it was already common knowledge. **AC** said it was our fault as we allowed test, test, test until we found something wrong. Should rather have waited to see what happened. If we compare the number of dogs we have to the number loosing eyes, its a very small problem but we have gone out and said that we have a problem. **JG** said when you talk to people in other breeds they don't do nearly as much testing as we do for border collies. **BT** asked if everyone was happy for **KK** to write up the invitation and then circulate it before putting it out? YES - everyone was in favour.

AOB

Nothing from EABCC, Midlands, BCCGB, NEBCC, WofE.

Wessex - website ... **RG** is the website administrator, is he still on the council? Website must be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: Saturday 8th November 2014, at Stoneleigh Park starting at 9:00am.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 2:20pm.

BT - Bob Tunnicliff
MT - Marion Turner
VH - Valerie Hawker
LN - Lyn Norton
KK - Kathie Kinton
AW - Annette Walters
CG - Chris Grant
JG - Judith Gregory
AC - Ali Chainey
LB - Lindsey Bridges
RG - Ross Green
JR - Jo Ratcliffe