

## **The Norwegian Elkhound Club of Great Britain**

(Incorporating The British Elkhound Society founded in 1923, and The Elkhound Club founded 1936)

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2024 At the Weston Hall Hotel, Bulkington, Coventry, CV12 9RU.**

**Present**, 36 Full Members, 1 Junior Member, in total 37 as listed in the Attendance Book.

#### **1. Chairman's Welcome**

Chairman asked Members to stand for a minute's silence in respect of friends, family and members who have passed away in the last twelve months.

#### **2. Apologies: Written apologies were received from the following:**

Mr P & Mrs D Hudson, Mr M Sharman, Miss Hamnett & Miss Spencer, Mrs S and Miss R Clarke, Mr & Mrs Lees, Mrs M Wadsworth, Mr S Byrne, M & J Williams, Mr & Mrs Houghton, Mr & Mrs Horner, Ms B Cowper, Mrs E Hicks.

#### **3. Minutes of the previous AGM held at Weston Hall Hotel, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2023**

Copies available for members to read.

They were proposed by Mrs K Gold and Seconded by Mrs W Sharman.

#### **4. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Chairman's Report.**

Copies were made available for members to read, Chairman read out her report, as Mr Byrne had resigned from his post of Treasurer, Chairman wished him well and thanked him. The report was accepted by the members.

#### **6. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet.**

Mr Byrne had sent in his report, he said that it had been an honour and a privilege to have been the Treasurer of the NECGB for the last seven years.

Over the last year the accounts showed a loss of £2679.70, this was mainly due to trophy expenses, £1148.66 was the loss from the Contest of Champions, £600 sundry items, anniversary gift for the members was £349.

The 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> journal (combined) printed and invoiced 2023 not 2022 was £1378.25.

The balance on the accounts included £2065 currently sat in the health fund.

Treasurer raised concerns for finance moving forward, main one was in the trophy storage, costs are non-sustainable, the journal costs next year will just be for the single copy, the Contest is an acceptable loss agreed by members at the pre covid AGM. If the trophy situation is not resolved there will be another significant loss in the accounts for 2024, and he thought that the loss would not be recovered in the sale of any trophies.

Email was again mentioned as being very important, it is essential that the Secretary has as many email addresses for members as possible to save on the very expensive postage where possible.

On a positive note, the Championship show, and the Open show are now stand alone shows, it works well and as expected seems to balance out.



Membership fees and numbers remain fairly static, and his recommendations are that the membership fees remain as they are.

Auditor will remain the same, and in view of our losses this year he recommended no donations for 2024.

Mrs Cowper added that Mr Byrne had paid six months storage fees but after this there will be no other payments, we must make a decision today, she said the solid silver ones can stay with her, and we will decide which we will use for our shows.

The accounts were Proposed by Mrs Maun and Seconded by Mr W Croxford.

### **7. Subscriptions**

Members thought that maybe we could increase the subscriptions as they had remained the same for years.

Sole membership £15, £20 for joint, this was Proposed by Mr Simms and Seconded by Mrs Maun. Unanimous.

Discussing overseas subscriptions, it was agreed on £25, these would come into effect in 2025.

Proposed by Mrs Maun and Seconded by Mrs Sharman. Unanimous.

### **8. Appointment of an Auditor.**

Hon Treasurer recommended to stay with Barry Gould FMAAT of BMG Accountancy Services Limited.

Proposed by Mr W Croxford and seconded by Mrs Maun.

### **9. Donations**

Following discussion, the members decided that no donations for this year, this was a unanimous decision.

### **10. Sub-Committee Reports:**

#### **10.1 Shows:**

Last year we had our Championship show on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, it was held at Corley village hall, and it was our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary show. The judge was Mrs E Cartledge, the entry was 54 dogs making a total of 108, we had cake and prosecco, Jacobs table and a raffle.

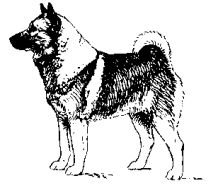
The Open show was held again at Corley village Hall, the judge was Mrs L Stephenson, she had a total of 31 dogs, it was thought that the decision had been the correct one to hold our show as a stand-alone show, it felt more personal and the members agreed with this, again there was a Jacobs table and a raffle. The show manager thanked everyone and thanked those who stayed behind after the show to help clean the hall, this was appreciated as previously we were picked up on a few things.

Mrs Mott asked about entry fees, it has been a while since the fees had changed, we could possibly increase the entry fees to £20 for members and £22 for non-members, this was for Championship shows, and maybe £15 for members and £17 non-members at the open show, if you entered more than 3 dogs at any of the shows the 4<sup>th</sup> dog would be £5 for members and £7 for non-members. This would start in 2025.

This was Proposed by Mrs Mott and Seconded by Mrs V McHugh, this was unanimous.

Mrs Sharman asked about the baby puppy classes, this was an idea from the KC, and it was for puppies between 4-6 months old, it was decided by the members to take this back to the Committee for discussion and then we can get back to them.

Mr W Croxford said that next year the Hound show will be hiring rings out to breed clubs at a cost of £150 a ring if this was of any interest to us, the Secretary said that as Corley was £110, the catering, raffles, tea and



coffee all proceeds went into our kitty so it was more economical to stay on our own, plus the judge's meals were expensive to buy at Stafford, members had agreed they would rather have a stand-alone show but thanked Mr Croxford for letting us know.

Before the 2024 Championship show we will be putting on a slot for guidance, etiquette for anyone who would be interested, anything we do will have to be before the start of the show.

It was asked if we could hold our shows at Weston Hall, but it is too expensive, we lose money on the Contest of Champions, we have tried to save costs by holding the AGM with the Contest.

We had previously agreed to hold the Contest here up to 2023 so we will need to consider if we still want to use Weston Hall as a venue. If we tried to hold the Contest at Corley or any other village hall it would not be classed as a premier event, it was agreed by members to stay at Weston for 2025 and if anyone can come up with any alternatives that can be discussed.

### **10.2 Breed Survey:**

Mrs Cowper said that she had not had many reports about any illnesses in Elkhounds in this country. There is a new DNA marker on H.A., it is not compulsory to test for this, but we are getting imports from abroad, it might be a wise decision to get it done as they have it in Germany and America.

The KC said that the Breed Health Co-ordinator has a term of three years, then it needs to change, so saying this it was suggested that Ms B Barganska could take over, she agreed to this, the problem being that some members were not sending in their test results, but this will be chased up, welcome and thank you Barbara.

### **10.3 Publications:**

**The Chairman read out to members the report** submitted by Mrs Hudson, she said that there had been unavoidable delays in both the magazine and the journal last year, the newsletter progress was put on hold for a while.

Thanks to go to Catherin Saint for getting together the show results for the double edition and to Margaret Wadsworth for doing the proof reading, the newsletter will be posted out to members after Christmas. Chairman reminded members that copies of the magazine are available at the AGM for them to pick up.

We need someone to volunteer to do the reports for Midlands, Wales and down to the South Coast. Ms Brown volunteered to do the reports for Wales, thank you for that.

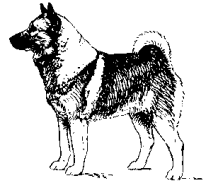
Mrs Hudson would also like someone to take over the editing of the magazine as she is finding it increasingly difficult.

Mrs McHugh said that she would be willing to help with any proof reading.

Ms K Tress said she would be willing to take over the magazine, but just the magazine and would not contribute, it would be all or nothing, thank you.

Mrs Sharman asked if it would be possible to publish the magazine online, this could be sent out to members via email, anyone wishing to opt out of this can have a hard copy of the magazine posted out to them, it was mentioned that it would be better if you opt in for the first time if this went ahead. And when the members only area of the website was up and running it could go on there.

Mrs McHugh proposed a vote of thanks to the publishing team and Mrs Sharman seconded it and it was unanimous.



## **11. Election of Officers and Committee.**

The Office of Chairman has remained uncontested; therefore, Mrs C Gilbert is re-elected.

No new nominations received for Treasurer.

Three vacancies for Committee members, Mrs Threadgold and Ms Cowper offered themselves for re-election, no new nominations for Committee received, therefore Mrs Threadgold and Ms Cowper are re-elected.

Mrs Mott said that she would be willing to become a Committee member, proposed by Mrs B Benner and Seconded by Mrs Maun.

As there had been no nominations for Treasurer, as a temporary measure, Mr M Sharman has agreed to undertake the role from a distance with the help of the Secretary. Thank you.

We do need a Treasurer as managing the club without one will be very difficult.

Mr Friend volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer, he said he worked in finance in his day job, has number knowledge so he should be fine with it, thank you and well done, this was proposed by Mrs McHugh and Seconded by Mrs Friend.

There will be a Committee meeting after the AGM where Mr Friend and Mrs Mott could be co-opted

Ms Barganska could report to Committee as a Breed health co-ordinator, but she would not be on the actual Committee.

The only other vacancy we have is for a Trophy Steward, no one volunteered for this position.

## **12. Trophy Update**

Mrs Cowper and Mrs Gilbert have tried so hard to sort out the trophies, collecting them, receiving them, we have only paid for storage for a further six months, no more money will be spent on this.

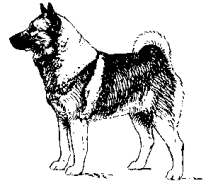
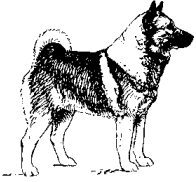
Mrs Cowper said that the solid silver ones could stay with her, we can sort out which trophies will be used for our club shows, the silver plate ones will be available for members to buy. The trophies in poor condition will be scrapped, Mrs Cowper asked if everyone agreed with this or if anyone did not. Ms Brown asked for a list of the trophies available, the best thing to do was to look through the journals and let Mrs Gilbert know if there are any that anyone fancies, don't forget it costs £1300 per year for storage.

There were no objections raised regarding trophies.

## **13. Proposal to amend code of ethics number 15 to include:**

**DNA results MUST be on a dogs Kennel Club record prior to breeding. In line with K.C. advice, and policy due to be implemented, hereditary clear status will only be for 2 generations, so all dogs with an untested, or only any hereditary clear Grandparents be tested, along with all dogs with an untested or carrier Parent. As a dog's K.C. record shows a 2-generation pedigree, it is a simple matter to check Parents and Grandparents status.**

**Proposed by Ms Barganska and Seconded by Mrs L Middleton.**



Ms Barganska went on to explain, some members may not be aware DNA testing for glaucoma started in 2015, Ms Barganska has kept a record of the results of these tests for five years for the British dogs, she has also kept copies of certificates, if they had been sent to her from overseas dogs.

Since 2020 the K.C. said that they would be adding dwarfism and glaucoma results to the data base they hold, unfortunately they have been slow at getting data together, but do seem to be better now. We have gaps in the system and members relied on her list of hereditary/clear dogs, after two generations it became confusing.

The K.C. would like dogs to be retested after two generations and not to rely on hereditary, clear results.

If anyone is in any doubt about your dog's status just test your dog, you need to get the results sent into the K.C..

We may need to change the wording on the proposal to accommodate overseas dogs, as the K.C. do not publish overseas dog's results.

After much discussion it was agreed to change the wording on the original proposal, a vote was taken, and it was unanimous.

The members voted on the following changes to amend the code of ethics number 15 to include,  
**Members will agree to submit all health test and DNA results direct to the NECGB health co-ordinator, in addition to submission to the K.C.**

The vote to accept this was unanimous.

It was agreed to return to the code of ethics next year after Ms Barganska and Mrs McHugh have been through them as they appear out of date, the findings can be discussed at the next AGM.

#### **14. A.O.B. (at the discretion of the Chairman)**

Working in conjunction with the Norwegian Club towards a publication by them, it became apparent that as a club we do not hold an official emblem as such. We need a discussion about this.

Mrs Friend said that she worked with a graphic designer, and she could ask him to look at this for a minimal fee, all agreed that this was a good idea and Mrs Friend will let us know how she gets on.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.16am

LM/CG